

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

Annual Report

ON THE

HEALTH OF BEDFORD

FOR THE YEAR

1962





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1962

BY

C. L. SHARP, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

together with the Report of

E. AVISON, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Telephone No. :
Bedford 67422.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

August, 1963.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Those who are healthy are usually unaware and unappreciative of the fact; those who are ill demand curative treatment and the contributions of preventive medicine are usually ignored, forgotten or denied. Interest in preventive medicine has, in the past, always needed the impetus of fear from epidemic disease. Public health was created by repeated epidemics of cholera and typhus. Only public demand is likely to produce better, or possibly even maintain present services. This can only be produced by education in its broadest sense.

I would like to draw attention to the work of the Department in respect of the Diabetes Detection Survey, which is reported on briefly under the heading "Preventive Medicine" on page 44.

The problems with which Public Health should be concerned are changing. No longer are we faced with the pressing problems of epidemic disease. These are, of course, always a threat if we relax our efforts to see that children are protected against diphtheria and poliomyelitis. The contribution which immunisation and vaccination has made in the last few years has been dramatic. In fact the deaths in children are likely to result from road accidents rather than from disease. I think a few examples are necessary to remind people of progress. In 1940 we had over 46,000 cases of diphtheria and 2,480 deaths. During this year a large scale campaign was launched to persuade parents to have their children immunised and, as a consequence, during the ensuing years the death rate fell considerably, being reduced to 13,071 in 1943, 156 in 1948 and under a dozen in 1954, when there were only 173 cases. By 1957 the cases had been reduced to 37 and deaths to 6. Progress in the control of infectious disease has been such that many infectious disease hospitals have been closed.

It has been estimated that in all 174,000 now alive would have died before their fifteenth birthday. The saving to the community by this is, of course, extremely difficult to evaluate. However, one way of doing this has been to calculate the total earnings of the survivors and this has been estimated as some 19 million per annum. Using the average output per employee as a basis for calculation a contribution to the community of over 40 million has been estimated. Whichever of the

numerous ways which can be used to look at this the impact is a major one and makes the cost of drugs and vaccines supplied to children under the National Health Service, which are estimated at 12-14 million per annum, small indeed.

Nevertheless, one cannot detect any great enthusiasm in any quarter for preventive medicine. Much lip service is paid to the idea, but practical help with finance invariably runs into very great difficulties.

It is, of course, now possible to protect children against not only diphtheria and poliomyelitis but also whooping cough, tetanus and tuberculosis, where, in the latter case, the Medical Research Council's investigation showed that real benefits accrued from B.C.G. vaccination of school children in trials carried out under the most rigorous conditions.

With regard to the work of the Department, our depleted staff of health visitors have been coping as best they can with providing services to the community. Nevertheless, I cannot pretend that with a health visitor establishment of twelve, of which we have actually five, is providing adequate services. Of course, we have met this situation, to prevent a complete breakdown, by utilising state registered nurses, who have not had the additional training and are not qualified as health visitors, to undertake much routine work in schools and clinics. The work of the nursing service rarely comes to the attention of the public and it is probably only in times of crises that individuals become aware of this service and its importance.

The environment problems are the concern of the public health inspectors and their useful, though unspectacular work has been going on with regard to the problems set by houses in multiple occupation and the large number of immigrant families in the town.

A vast amount of work has been done in preparing public opinion in the implementation of smoke control areas. There has been considerable criticism of the slowness of progress made by local authorities in the advance of clean air. Those people who have lived in the north do, of course, view Bedford as a relatively clean area. However, this is not a reasonable comparison to make as Bedford's levels of pollution are far from satisfactory. The rates of chronic bronchitis in this country are outstanding. So much so that bronchitis has been christened the "English disease".

This is a particularly unpleasant disease in that the symptoms are distressing and the disease runs a chronic course over many years, leading to considerable loss of productivity. One cannot escape the conclusion that part of the problem is the failure to use mass media, such as television, effectively for putting over the case for preventive measures. Whilst the importance of television time for selling any ordinary commodity is already accepted and the costs met this does not yet apply to human beings and a considerable volume of work done in respect of talks, posters, leaflets, etc., makes little impact.

The infant mortality was 31.5 per thousand births. The birth rate 21.7 per thousand population. The mortality from tuberculosis was

0.05 per thousand population and from lung cancer 0.62 per thousand population.

I wish to express my thanks to the members of the Town Council, especially of the Public Health Committee, for their help and consideration for the work of the Department: my thanks also to those concerned, for the loyal co-operation of the staff of the Public Health Department, and for assistance received in many ways from the Town Clerk and officials of other Departments of the Corporation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

CLIVE L. SHARP,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(31ST DECEMBER, 1962)

ALDERMAN L. H. NICHOLSON, M.B.E. (Chairman)
COUNCILLOR A. G. DAWES, J.P. (The Mayor)
ALDERMAN A. R. SHARP
COUNCILLOR K. J. R. BIRTWISTLE (Vice-Chairman)
COUNCILLOR J. M. COLEMAN
COUNCILLOR H. J. CRAWFORD
COUNCILLOR N. L. HALSEY
COUNCILLOR A. H. JACKSON
COUNCILLOR MRS. R. P. MARCHBANK, J.P.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Chief Welfare Officer
C. L. SHARP, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy School Medical Officer :
P. LAVIS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :
E. AVISON, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :
E. J. CONSTABLE, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors :
R. PEEL, M.A.P.H.I.
F. C. RYDING, M.A.P.H.I.
R. J. COOKE, M.A.P.H.I.
One Vacancy
(All the Inspectors are Meat Inspectors)

Chief Clerk : F. J. DIX

Secretary : MISS V. O. EVANS

Other Clerical Staff :

Senior Clerks: F. V. BATSON, MISS O. M. ROSE, MRS. C. WATERHOUSE
Clerks: MRS. M. D. BARR, MRS. W. BEDDOES, MRS. E. BEESLEY,
MISS M. J. BLACKER, MISS L. J. CREAN, MISS J. O'SULLIVAN,
MISS J. SIMMONDS, MRS. L. STRACHAN, MISS S. WILLMOTT

Superintendent Nursing Officer :
*WINNIE FROST, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Cert., Q. Nursing Certificate

Superintendent Health Visitor :
*EDITH L. MARTIN, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.'s Certificate

Health Visitors :
MRS. M. G. CALLAWAY, MISS D. M. EASTWOOD, MISS D. ELLIOTT,
MRS. A. L. LEE, MRS. A. HOLDER

School Nurse :
MRS. D. DAVIDSON

Clinic Nurses :
MRS. V. M. BARKER, MRS. E. INSKIPP and MRS. M. SETCHELL

District Nurses :
MR. A. ANTHONY, MRS. B. EVANS, MRS. I. FORSYTH,
MRS. F. D. L. FOSTER, MISS D. W. KNEE, MRS. M. L. PATRICK,
MISS E. PRYOR, MISS W. M. ROGERS, MR. N. J. SMITH
and MISS B. M. WADELIN

Midwives :
MRS. A. L. CRUNDWELL, MRS. I. HUGHES, MRS. M. E. INSKIP,
MISS M. L. JACK and MISS F. W. McLEOD

** Mental Health Officers :*
MR. C. W. FRENCH (Chief), A.A.P.S.W.
MESSRS. A. AUSTIN, C. B. BARNES, B. G. GARNER, E. F. K. KING,
J. MARSDEN, J. C. SHARDLOW and J. STEPHENSON

Dental Surgeon :
F. BRABINGTON PERRY, L.D.S., R.C.S., D.E.C.D.S. (Part-time) until 30/11/62
J. E. CRUICKSHANK, L.D.S., from 1/12/62

Dental Attendant :
MISS P. A. SMITH

Social Welfare Officer :
MISS M. McDOWALL

Welfare Officer :
MRS. J. M. E. FRANCE

Home Teacher for the Blind :
MISS I. TURNER

Trainee Public Health Inspectors :
P. M. D. BILLINGTON, M. F. CAPON and R. C. I. LINGER

Driver/General Assistant :
S. BELLIA

Mortuary Attendant and Storekeeper :
B. BOULTON

Disinfectors, Drain Testers, Rodent Destruction Operators :
D. DUNCAN and F. H. FAIRHURST

* Whole-time officers of the Bedfordshire County Council undertaking supervisory duties or working in a shared service capacity.

BOROUGH OF BEDFORD

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

I. VITAL STATISTICS

1. Summary of Statistics

Area of Borough (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	4,972
Population—						
Census 1961	...	...	...	...	...	63,317
Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population for 1962						64,740
Number of Inhabited Houses—						
According to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	19,373
Number of Private Households—						
Census 1961	...	...	...	...	...	20,107
Number of Private Dwellings—						
Census 1961	...	...	...	...	...	19,110
Rateable Value (1962-63)	...	...	...	...	...	£1,075,940
Penny Rate Product	...	...	...	...	...	£4,470
Live Births—	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population		
				Crude	Corrected	
Total	751	711	1,462	22.6	21.7	
Legitimate	669	657	1,326			
Illegitimate	82	54	136			
Still Births—				Rate per 1,000 population	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	
Total	13	19	32	0.5	21.4	
Legitimate	12	15	26			
Illegitimate	1	4	6			
Total Live and Still Births—						
Total	764	730	1,494			
Legitimate	680	672	1,352			
Illegitimate	84	58	142			
Infant Deaths (under one year of age)				Rate per 1,000 live births		
Total	29	17	46	31.5		
Legitimate	24	16	40	27.3		
Illegitimate	5	1	6	4.1		

Infant Deaths (under four weeks of age)—				Rate per 1,000 live births
	Male	Female	Total	
Total ...	25	14	39	26.7
Legitimate	21	13	34	23.3
Illegitimate	4	1	5	3.4

Infant Deaths (under one week of age)—				
	Male	Female	Total	
Total ...	20	13	33	22.5
Legitimate	18	12	30	20.5
Illegitimate	2	1	3	2.1

Illegitimate Live Births ... 9.3% of total live births

Maternal Deaths ... —

Maternal Mortality rate for 1,000 live and still births ... —

Deaths—								
Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	312
Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	351
								<hr/> 663 <hr/>

Death Rates—								
All Causes	{	Crude	...	...	...	...	...	10.2
		Adjusted	...	...	...	...	...	10.3
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			...	...	...	...	...	—
Whooping Cough			...	...	...	...	...	—
Diphtheria			...	...	...	...	...	—
Tuberculosis			...	...	...	...	...	0.05
Influenza			...	...	...	...	...	0.05
Smallpox			...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis			...	...	...	...	...	—
Pneumonia			...	...	...	...	...	0.48
All causes under 1 year of age			...	...	...	...	...	0.71

Notifications (corrected)—								
Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.73
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.17
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.68
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.42
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)—								
Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02
Non-paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.03
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.02
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.41
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.05

2. Population

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General for 1962 was 64,740 and as will be seen from the undermentioned table there has been a total increase of population of 800.

POPULATION

Year	Population	Increase over previous year
1962	64,740	800
Total increase, 1957/1962		7,160
Average yearly increase in 5 years		1,432

It is not now possible to give the number of aliens in the town as the coming into force of the Aliens' Order, 1960 somewhat changed the previous system of registration. Commonwealth citizens do not, of course, register therefore true numbers are not available of these persons.

The number of foreign and commonwealth school children attending local authority schools is 1,407.

3. Birth Rate

The number of births is largely determined by the number of women of child-bearing age resident in the area, thus the birth rate cannot be compared with another area unless it is of a similar sex and age structure or until some allowance is made in the calculation. This is the function of the comparability factor, this being supplied to all areas by the Registrar-General.

The birth rate for 1962 was 21.7 after multiplying by the comparability factor of 0.96, and that for England and Wales was 18.0. The crude rate for the year under review was 22.6.

The total number of live births was 1,462.

The above figures show fluctuations which are not necessarily significant, but nationally the trend has been upwards.

4. Still Births

The number of still births was 32 and the still birth rate 0.5 per 1,000 population which may be compared with 0.31 for England and Wales. The corresponding rates for 1,000 total live and still births were

21.4 and 18.1 respectively. In order to eliminate chance fluctuations the figures over a period of five years are given in the following table, from which it appears that the average figures vary little from those for the country as a whole.

STILL BIRTH RATES

Bedford and England and Wales

	Per 1,000 population		Per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	Bedford	England and Wales	Bedford	England and Wales
1962	0.49	0.31	21.4	18.1
Average - last five years	0.42	0.34	20.1	19.4

5. Death Rate

The uncorrected death rate was 10.2 as compared with 9.7 for the previous year. To make allowances for age and sex constitution the Registrar-General has allowed correction of this figure by the comparability figure of 1.01 by which a corrected death rate of 10.3 is obtained. The rate for England and Wales was 11.9.

6. Causes of Death

Cause of Death					Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES					302	351	653
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	3	—	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	2	2
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	.....	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	1	1	2
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	4	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	15	15
12.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	30	10	40
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	8	8
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	27	30	57
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	1	1	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	4	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	37	64	101
18.	Coronary diseases, angina	...	...	...	66	67	133
19.	Hypertension, with heart disease	...	...	...	1	4	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	17	43	60
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	7	14	21
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	2	3
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	12	19	31
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	31	8	39
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	1	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	1	4
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	4	4
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	10	5	15
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	32	31	63
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	8	2	10
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	14	8	22
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	4	1	5
36.	Homicide	...	...	...	2	—	2

In commenting on causes of death, reference might be made to : —

Venereal disease, syphilis, caused two deaths.

Cancer of the stomach caused 6 deaths compared with 15 last year. Cancer of the bronchus (lung) caused 40 deaths compared with 23 deaths in 1961.

Deaths from leukaemia over the last few years have been two in the years 1956, 1957, 1958, four in 1959, three in 1960, one in 1961 and in 1962 two.

The following table shows the number of deaths from motor vehicle and other accidents in the past five years.

	Motor vehicle accidents			All other accidents		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1958	9	—	9	9	11	20
1959	11	2	13	10	4	14
1960	6	3	9	11	1	12
1961	5	—	5	10	8	18
1962	8	2	10	14	8	22
Average	8	1	9	11	6	17

Fatal road casualties in the Borough were aged 40, 42, 46 and 48 years.

The importance of preventing accidents at home, at work, and on the roads is brought out by the above figures.

7. Maternal Mortality

No deaths occurred in 1962.

8. Infant Mortality

The total number of infant deaths was 46 of which 29 were male and 17 female, giving an infant mortality rate of 31.5 per 1,000 live births over the year, which may be compared with 21.4 per 1,000 live births, the figure for England and Wales.

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

	1962	Average for last five years
Bedford	31.5	17.6
England and Wales ...	21.4	21.8

The number of neo-natal deaths, or those occurring under one month was 39 corresponding to a rate of 26.7 per 1,000 live births, which compared with 13.3 the figure for the previous year, shows a large increase.

II. PREVENTION OF ILLNESS

(A) PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

	1962	1961
Prophylaxis—		
Number protected		
Smallpox	10,813	975
Poliomyelitis—		
Received primary course	1,257	4,336
Diphtheria—		
Primary course	970	1,305
Re-inforcing dose	674	946
<hr/>		
Perinatal Mortality	39	17
26.7 per 1,000 live births. 0.60 per 1,000 population.		
Post neo natal death rate (deaths after first month until end of first year)	7	7
4.8 per 1,000 live births. 0.11 per 1,000 population.		
<hr/>		
Children and young persons brought before Juvenile Court—		
1958	182	
1959	190	
1960	163	
1961	179	
1962	Not available	
Children taken into care	72	
<hr/>		
Illegitimacy—Total live and still births	141	93
Live births 9.3% of total live births.		
<hr/>		
Cases dealt with by N.S.P.C.C.	1962 145	1961 124
Consisted of—		
Neglect	73	72
Assault or ill treatment	9	11
Beyond control	9	4
Moral danger	1	1
Aid/advice sought	53	36
Children involved	365	288
Supervisions of families	683	540
Prosecutions	3	4
Juvenile Court Action Only	2	3

Deaths from diseases or conditions in which causation is largely preventable—

Cancer of the lung	40	23
Chronic bronchitis	39	30
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Accidents (other than road)	22	18

Deaths below 55 years of age—

Males	81	48
Females	45	42
Total	126	90

These figures are given because they give some indication of parental care and progress with regard to preventable disease. They are also a reflection on how effectively we can bring home to people the benefits of preventive measures.

The N.S.P.C.C. figures reveal clearly what remains to be done in this field.

III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

1. General

Arrangements in the Borough for sewerage and sewage disposal are adequate at the present time. With the exception of a few houses and a small number of workplaces all premises are connected to the public sewers.

2. Water Supply

(A) QUALITY AND QUANTITY

I am indebted to the Water Engineer to the North Bedfordshire Water Board for the following information relating to the water supply.

- (i) The water supply to the Borough has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
- (ii) A summary of the results of bacteriological examinations of the raw water and of the water going into supply is given below : —

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS, 1962

Source	No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms			B. Coli. Type I			Plate counts		
		% positive	% with 1800+ orgs.	Av. orgs. per 100 ml.	% positive	% with 1800+ orgs.	Av. orgs. per 100 ml.	No. of samples	Av. orgs. per ml.	
									37° C.	20° C.
Raw Water ...	53	100	24	1017	100	24	757	53	335	1884
Water to Supply	267	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	53	7	44
Samples after repairs ; from new mains, etc. in Bedford Borough.	145	6	—	—	Nil	—	—	—	—	—

- (iii) No lead in solution. Weekly samples lead free.
- (iv) All work on mains is followed by chlorination and sampling by the Board's chemist.
- (v) All houses supplied by public water mains direct except 6 cottages at Biddenham Ford End from 1 standpipe.

Safety

Waterworks personnel are, where appropriate, submitted to blood tests to exclude the possibility of any being carriers of typhoid.

A summary of chemical analyses of the raw water and the fully treated water is given in the following table.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES, YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1962

	Raw water		Treated water	
	Range	Average	Range	Average
Reaction (pH)	7.8-8.6	8.1	7.3-8.3	7.5
Turbidity (silica scale)	2-67	12	Nil-6	Less than 1
Colour (hazen units)	12-45	22	Nil-10	5
Carbonate hardness as CaCO ₃ ...	141-240	212	114-219	161
Non-carbonate hardness as CaCO ₃	94-181	139	107-197	154
Total hardness, p.p.m.	290-404	352	258-402	315
Total hardness (degrees—Clark)	21-29	25	18-29	23
Free Carbon Dioxide	Nil-6	2.5	Nil-12	4.5
Total Solids	391-526	447	365-521	430
Chlorine in Chlorides	29-64	43	32-64	46
Electric Conductivity (reciprocal megohms per c.c. at 20°C) ...	580-753	681	550-795	647
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (free and saline Ammonia)	Nil-0.68	0.006	Nil-0.32	0.002
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.14-0.59	0.27	0.06-0.36	0.15
Nitrogen in Nitrites	0.4-5.0	1.9	0.3-3.6	1.7
Nitrogen in Nitrates				
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 26.7°C.	1.6-4.6	2.62	0.6-2.9	1.26
Iron	—	Trace	—	Nil
Copper	—	—	—	—
Lead	—	Nil	—	Nil
Zinc	—	Nil	—	Nil
Calcium as CaCO ₃	265-358	320	235-368	289
Magnesium as CaCO ₃	25-43	31	10-36	26
Fluorine as F	0.10-0.31	0.22	0.10-0.30	0.18
Sulphates	75-147	108	96-187	131
Silica as SiO ₂	—	9.0	—	8.5
Ortho-phosphates	—	0.3	—	—
Meta-phosphates	—	—	—	—
Aluminium	—	Nil	Nil-0.30	0.08
Anionic detergent	0.09-0.45	0.26	0.01-0.30	0.19
Sodium	12-48	30	14-49	33
Potassium	4.6-10.0	6.7	4.6-10.4	6.8

Results in parts per million

The following tables show the result of examinations undertaken at the Public Health Laboratory Service.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS—FULLY TREATED WATER

No. of samples of water in the course of distribution	Presumptive coliforms		Faecal coliforms	
	Pos.	av. orgs. per 100 ml.	Pos.	av. orgs. per 100 ml.
130	—	—	—	—

Cases where coliforms are found are referred to the Water Board for further investigations. No evidence of pollution dangerous to health was discovered.

(B) UNTREATED RAW WATER

15 samples were taken from the Water Board's Station. The following table shows the results of these samples.

Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
9,000	8	5,500	2

(C) SWIMMING BATHS, BATHING PLACES AND PADDLING POOL

Newnham Baths and Schools' Swimming Pools

Results of samples taken are shown in the following table and it will be seen that these are very satisfactory.

Bathing Places and Paddling Pool

Samples were also taken from four officially controlled or generally recognised bathing places in the river and one paddling pool and the results are as expected for raw river water.

Source	No. of samples	Presumptive coliforms per 100 ml.		Faecal coliforms per 100 ml.	
		Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
Newnham Baths ...	74	18+	—	18+	—
Schools Swimming Pools ...	8	16	2	16	—
Bathing Places and Paddling Pool ...	15	9,000	—	2,250	—

The following number of persons attended the Newnham Swimming Bath during the 1962 season : —

Adults	...	...	...	...	21,811
Children (including organised parties)	...	...	...	...	74,961
Total	...	...	...	...	96,772

IV. HOUSING

1. General

For details of the work carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts reference is made to the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector on pages 50-54.

2. New Units of Accommodation

During the years 1945 to 1962 the following numbers and type of new units of accommodation were completed.

NEW DWELLINGS AND CONVERSIONS, 1945-1962

	(1) Prefabricated Dwellings (Council)		(2) Permanent Dwellings (Council)	(3) Permanent houses erected by builders	(4) Conversions: Houses into flats		(5) Other adapta- tions. Additional units of accommo- dation	(6) Total additional units of accommo- dation provided
	Tem- porary	Perma- nent			i	ii		
1945-1961 totals	180	158	2,950	2,212	160	386	14	5,740
1962	—	—	124	316	17	64	—	487
Totals ...	180	158	3,074	2,528	177	450	14	6,227

NOTES—The totals in columns (6) are obtained by adding the figures in columns (1), (2), (3) and (5) as they stand, and in the case of column (4) by subtracting the figures in column (i) from those in column (ii) to find the number to be included in the total. This last procedure may not always be quite accurate, but gives a sufficient approximation.

It should be noted that demolitions known to this Department amounted to 831 over this period.

3. Housing Requirements

APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES

I am informed by the Housing Manager that the number of applicants for houses on the books of the Corporations at the end of the year was 1,479.

Housing remains an important social problem.

V. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. Infectious Diseases, other than Tuberculosis

(A) GENERAL STATISTICS

The following table shows in summary form the number of infectious diseases notified during the year.

DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) NOTIFIED

Disease	Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever	47
Whooping Cough	11
Diphtheria	—
Measles	303
Acute Pneumonia	27
Meningococcal Infection	1
Acute Poliomyelitis—	
Paralytic	1
Non-Paralytic	2
Acute Encephalitis—	
Infective	—
Post Infectious	—
Dysentery	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	91
Smallpox	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1
Typhoid Fever	—
Food Poisoning	1
Jaundice	4
Erysipelas	1
Malaria	—

(B) INDIVIDUAL DISEASES

Scarlet Fever

47 cases occurred during the year, none of which was of a serious nature. The case rate was 0.73 per 1,000 population.

Whooping Cough

11 notifications were received, making a case rate of 0.17.

Measles

There were 303 cases in 1962, the majority of which were notified during the early months of the year. The case rate was 4.68.

Poliomyelitis

Three cases of poliomyelitis were notified, one paralytic, and two non-paralytic, as follows : —

The paralytic case occurred in a man of 34 years. The paralysis was not of a severe nature.

The two non-paralytic cases occurred in men aged 40 and 49, neither were serious cases.

The case rate was 0.05.

General

Other rates for notifications received are as follows : —

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	0.42
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	0.05
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	0.06
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0.02
Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	...	0.02

Food Poisoning

One case was notified during the year, giving a rate of 0.02. Two other cases were discovered upon investigation.

Para-Typhoid

One case was notified during the year, giving a case rate of 0.02.

2. Tuberculosis

The following table shows the number of new cases and the number of deaths in their age groups.

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF CASES AND DEATHS

Age Periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years	...	...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 years	...	...	4	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-44 years	...	...	16	7	4	6	1	—	—	—
45-64 years	...	...	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over	...	...	3	2	—	1	2	—	—	—
Age Unknown	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	32	15	4	8	3	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS—CASES NOTIFIED DURING LAST 5 YEARS

Year	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
1958	19	20	3	3	45
1959	39	12	2	5	58
1960	27	11	4	—	42
1961	18	7	5	6	36
1962	32	15	4	8	59

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATES

Year	All forms			Respiratory			Non-respiratory		
	No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000		No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000		No. in Bedford	Rate per 1,000	
		Bedford	England and Wales		Bedford	England and Wales		Bedford	England and Wales
1958	3	0.05	0.10	2	0.03	0.09	1	0.01	0.01
1959	1	0.02	0.09	1	0.02	0.08	—	—	0.01
1960	3	0.05	0.07	2	0.03	0.07	1	0.02	0.01
1961	—	—	0.07	—	—	0.06	—	—	0.01
1962	3	0.05	0.06	3	0.05	0.06	—	—	0.01
Average	2	0.03	0.08	2	0.03	0.07	1	0.01	0.01

3. Verminous Infestation

The following table shows the work carried out during the year.

VERMINOUS HEADS EXAMINED AND TREATED
AT THE CLEANSING STATION

	Bedford	County
Pre-School Children	7	—
School Children	32	1
Adults	3	—

VI. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47

1. Persons in need of care and attention

This Section provides for the necessary care and attention of persons who—

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged and infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and
- (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention.

It was not necessary to take steps for compulsory removal to hospital of any persons during the year.

2. Aged Persons

In all 43 aged persons were visited, either by a Health Visitor or a Public Health Inspector to ensure that they were receiving proper care and attention. Some of these persons were referred by the Hospital Authorities, particularly in instances where they were being discharged from hospital to live at home by themselves.

Where necessary, the services of a Home Help have been obtained and assistance has also been sought from voluntary and other national and local government services.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

(A) MORTUARY

The following table shows the work done in connection with the Mortuary. The total number of bodies received showed a decrease on that of the previous year by 20.

BODIES RECEIVED

	Bodies received from Borough	Bodies received from other areas	Total
Post Mortems carried out	81	96	177
Post Mortems not carried out 	5	2	7
Total 	86	98	184

(B) SHOWER BATH, GWYN STREET

The number of persons using the shower baths at the public conveniences under the Allhallows Car Park was as follows :—

Females	...	...	...	...	81
Males	...	...	...	...	1,817
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>1,898</u>

(C) CREMATION

As Medical Referee to the Bedford Crematorium I have the duty of scrutinising the application and medical documents required by law.

Scrutiny of the necessary documents and investigation of difficulties is very time consuming. Cremations during 1962 numbered 682 as compared with 588 in 1961. The 1962 figure includes 293 for Bedford.

Minor errors in the documents are not uncommon and telephone enquiries to the doctors signing the forms, either to establish corrections or amplify the information on the forms, may be required. If necessary, i.e., where reasonable doubt as to the cause of death exists, a post mortem examination may be required and this is carried out at the expense of the Authority.

In view of the restricted land available in towns for earth burial, the practice of cremation should be encouraged.

(D) EMIGRATION

Those travelling abroad require authentication of their medical documents by this Department and this enables us to get some information on numbers and destination. The information obtained is given in tabular form below.

INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATES OF SMALLPOX VACCINATION :
AUTHENTICATION OF DOCTOR'S SIGNATURE

	No. of persons who submitted documents	Destination			Reason for travelling				
		Common- wealth	Other Countries	Not known	Business	Holiday	Emigration	H.M. Forces or Merchant Navy	Not known
1962	1871	203	1496	172	283	1244	72	72	180
1961	439	235	191	13	92	188	111	40	8

VIII. PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

1. *Births*

The number of births occurring in the area and notified by doctors and midwives was as follows : —

		Live Births		Still Births		Totals	
		Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted	Actual	Adjusted
Domiciliary	...	554	550	6	6	560	556
Institutional	...	1,634	902	40	26	1,674	928
Totals	...	2,188	1,452	46	32	2,234	1,484

It will be seen that approximately three-quarters of the births notified occurred in institutions, nearly all at the Bedford General Hospital, North Wing.

In comparing these figures with those given by the Registrar-General under " Vital Statistics ", it will also be noticed that the actual number of births given by him is 10 more if his total live and still births is compared with the total adjusted births obtained from local sources, namely 1,494.

2. *Premature Births*

Premature births are those in which an infant weighs $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less and for whom special care is required.

The tables following show the number of such births during the year and it will be noticed that the majority occurred in hospitals where specialised treatment is more readily available, although for domiciliary cases arrangements are in existence whereby needs can be met as quickly as possible.

NUMBER OF PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS (AS ADJUSTED BY ANY
NOTIFICATIONS TRANSFERRED IN OR OUT OF THE AREA)

In Hospital	At Home	In Private Nursing Homes	Total
61	17	—	78

NUMBER OF PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS NOTIFIED (AS ADJUSTED BY ANY
NOTIFICATIONS TRANSFERRED IN OR OUT OF THE AREA)

In Hospital	At Home	In Private Nursing Homes	Total
9	2	—	11

3. *Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics*

No clinics are operated by the Local Authority, but clinics are held at the Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, to which local medical practitioners may refer patients. All expectant and nursing mothers who are entering or have entered the hospital for confinement are requested to attend the hospital clinics.

Midwives' clinics are held fortnightly at Putnoe Centre and booking sessions are held weekly at this clinic.

In addition, relaxation and mothercraft sessions were held fortnightly at Putnoe and Union Street Centres and attendances were as follows :

	Union Street	Putnoe
Sessions held	25	25
Women who attended	90	62
Attendances	322	261
Totals	437	348

4. *Child Welfare Centres*

The new clinic at Union Street came into operation during the year and has been most useful, serving a wide range of facilities, Dental, Child Guidance, Home Help and the Borderline (Diabetic) Clinic.

The following tables show the work undertaken at the Borough Centres : —

ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS

Centre	No. of sessions during year	Number of children who attended during year				Number of attendances during year			
		Born in			Total	Age at date of attendance			Total
		1962	1961	1960-57		0 -	1 -	2 - 4	
Barford Avenue	101	122	147	111	380	2,753	533	302	3,588
Brereton Road to April ...	34	97	182	77	356	1,097	104	18	1,219
Goldington ...	51	65	42	44	151	774	180	107	1,061
Harewood Road	51	80	79	56	215	1,353	373	224	1,950
Putnoe ...	96	270	216	165	651	3,769	675	294	4,738
Queen's Park ...	50	94	63	82	239	1,461	259	215	1,935
Union Street from May ...	68	269	61	46	376	3,552	284	100	3,936
Totals ...	451	997	790	581	2,368	14,759	2,408	1,260	18,427

5. Ultra Violet Light (Sunlight) Clinic

The attendances at this clinic over the past few years have been decreasing rapidly and this, no doubt, is due to the very great improvement in the health of children and their living conditions.

Figures are as follows : —

No. of Children Attending	No. of Attendances	Sessions Held
1	12	12

6. Distribution of Welfare Foods and Other Commodities

(I) WELFARE FOODS OBTAINED AND SOLD THROUGH MINISTRY OF HEALTH ARRANGEMENTS

A & D Tablets (Pkts. of 20)	Cod Liver Oil	National Dried Milk		Orange Juice
		Full Cream	Half Cream	
573	644	3,395	22	7,640

(II) WELFARE FOODS OBTAINED BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

In addition to the above, the Local Authority obtains and sells dried milk and other commodities at a cost amounting to approximately £5,500 per year.

7. Dental Treatment

By arrangement with the Committee for Education, the School Dental Surgeon undertook the work of dental treatment for nursing and

expectant mothers and children under five years of age. The following figures show the nature of the work done.

NUMBERS PROVIDED WITH DENTAL CARE

	Examined	Needing Treatment	Treated	Made Dentally Fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	—	—	—	—
Children under 5 ...	32	26	26	26

FORM OF DENTAL TREATMENT PROVIDED

	Scalings and Gum Treatment	Fillings	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Crowns or Inlays	Extractions	General Anaesthetics	Dentures Provided		Radiographs
							Full Upper or Lower Partial	Upper or Lower	
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Children under 5	—	20	—	—	11	—	—	—	—

8. Health Visiting

At the end of the year the Health Visiting staff consisted of five Health Visitors with three clinic nurses.

The following table shows the visiting undertaken and its nature.

No. of children under 5 years of age visited during year	Expectant Mothers		Children under 1 year of age		Children age 1 and under 2 years	Children age 2 but under 5 years	Tuberculous Households	Other cases	Total number of families or households visited
	First Visits	Total Visits	First Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	Total Visits	
2,362	194	284	1,466	4,265	1,400	2,266	—	441	2,116
		78		795	267	393		33	

Figures in heavy type denote “No access” visits. These are not included in the figures given immediately above.

The following clinics, etc. were attended by Health Visitors : —

Mothers and Children	...	...	504
Birth Control	...	...	26
Mothercraft	...	...	24
Immunisation and Vaccination	...	...	1
School Medical Inspections	...	...	1
Meetings and Lectures	...	...	57

9. Home Nursing

This service, usually known as the District Nursing Service, and consisting of ten nurses (eight female and two male), worked quite smoothly during the year, there being a full establishment.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	Patients included in 2 and 7		
								Over 65	Under 5	Had over 24 visits
of cases attended by Home Nurses during the	856	144	2	12	2 plus 5 abortions	18	1,039	446	11	262
of visits paid Home Nurses during the year	22,973	4,840	22	1,028	5 plus 35 abortions	74	28,977	20,504	118	22,014

10. Midwives

The number of midwives on the establishment of the Public Health Department is seven, but at the end of the year five were in employment. Steps had, however, been taken to fill the vacancy early in 1963.

23 midwives were employed in an institution (Bedford General Hospital, North Wing) and the following tables show duties carried out.

NUMBER OF DELIVERIES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES IN THE AREA
DURING THE YEAR

	Domiciliary Cases					Cases in Institutions
	Doctor not booked		Doctor booked		Totals	
	Doctor present at time of delivery of child	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child	Doctor present at time of delivery of child (either the booked doctor or another)	Doctor not present at time of delivery of child		
Midwives employed by the Authority ...	2	—	134	386	522	
Midwives employed by Voluntary Organisations ...	—	—	2	21	23	
Midwives employed at local hospital ...	—	—	—	—	—	1,636
Totals ...	2	—	136	407	545	1,636

There were 58 cases in which medical aid was summoned under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, by domiciliary midwives where the medical practitioners had arranged to provide patients with maternity medical services under the National Health Service.

11. Administration of Inhalational Analgesics

The number of midwives in practice at the end of the year qualified to administer inhalational analgesics was as follows : —

Bedford General Hospital (North Wing)	...	23
Domiciliary	... ..	5
Voluntary Organisation	... ..	1

The number of cases in which inhalational analgesics were administered by midwives in domiciliary practice was : —

When doctor was present at time of delivery of child					When doctor was not present at time of delivery of child		
Gas and Air	Gas and Air and Pethidine	Trilene	Gas, Air and Trilene	Gas, Air, Trilene and Pethidine	Gas and Air	Gas and Air and Pethidine	Trilene and Pethidine
35	75	1	2	2	182	165	1

The number of cases in which pethidine was administered by midwives in domiciliary practice was : —

When doctor was present at time of delivery of child				When doctor was not present		
Pethidine	Gas and Air and Pethidine	Triline and Pethidine	Gas, Air, Trilene and Pethidine	Pethidine	Gas and Air and Pethidine	Trilene and Pethidine
8	75	1	2	22	165	1

12. *Unmarried Mothers and Children*

For the care of the unmarried mother and her child, close association exists with the North Bedfordshire Association for Moral Welfare, the St. Alban’s Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare and the Northampton Diocesan Catholic Child Protection and Welfare Society, whereby the Authority is responsible for the maintenance of mothers and babies during their stay in Mother and Baby Homes, normally outside Bedfordshire.

During the year 16 mothers were given help in this way.

13. *Mothers’ and Babies’ Home*

The North Bedfordshire Association for Moral Welfare has a Mothers’ and Babies’ Home—Holt House, 178 Hurst Grove—to which the Bedford Borough Council and neighbouring authorities send unmarried mothers and their babies.

The accommodation consists of 11 beds and 6 cots. There are no labour beds. The average length of stay is six weeks.

There were 34 admissions in the year.

14. *Nurseries and Child Minders*

Day Nurseries

The Council maintains a Day Nursery at 34 St. John’s Street and this is open daily, except Saturdays and Sundays, between the hours of 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m.

The Day Nursery Admission Sub-Committee meets periodically to consider applications received.

A charge is made which is based on the net income of the applicants after allowances have been made for parents, children, rent and rates

or board and lodging, National Insurance and any other items considered to be reasonable.

Details of admissions and attendances are as follows : —

Number of children on register at 1/1/62	...	...	39
Number added to register during year	...	...	58
Number removed from register during year	...	...	64
Number remaining on register at 31/12/62	...	...	33
Number of Sessions	...	...	254
Attendances—			
0 - 2 years	...	...	2,090
2 - 5 years	...	...	5,452
			7,542
Average daily attendance (Monday-Friday)—			
0 - 2 years	...	...	8
2 - 5 years	...	...	21
			29

Day Nurseries, set up under arrangement made by Religious or Welfare Associations, are registered as follows : —

Situation	Occupier	No. of Places
8-10 Woburn Road ...	Rev. J. W. Susin ...	30
*St. Andrew's Church Hall, Bedford & District Society		14
St. Alban Road (for mentally handicapped children) ...	for Mentally Handicapped Children ...	(one day a week only)

* Closed April, 1962.

These nurseries have been periodically inspected by your Medical Officer and have been found to be well maintained.

Child Minders

At the end of the year three persons were registered as Child Minders, providing for 26 children. The homes of these persons were regularly inspected and found to be maintained in a satisfactory state and requirements concerning the minding of children properly adhered to.

15. *Nursing Homes*

There were four nursing homes on the register at the end of the year.

Details are as follows : —

Names and Situation	No. of Beds
De Parys Nursing Home, 42 De Parys Avenue ...	13
The Rothsay Nursing Home, 53 Goldington Road ...	26
62 Chaucer Road ...	8
"Cheltondale," 84 Castle Road ...	10

Periodic inspections of the above homes have been made by your medical officers.

16. Birth Control

A special clinic where birth control advice is given and where contraceptive materials are supplied, is held fortnightly at Barford Avenue Centre. It is a condition that women attending the clinic do so on medical or domestic reasons and during the year 154 mothers attended, the number of visits made being 298.

In addition the Family Planning Association holds sessions at Union Street Clinic. This organisation gives advice on family planning and fertility to young married people and engaged couples. It is, therefore, somewhat more educational in its functions.

17. Domestic Help Service

The Borough shares this service with the County Council, the County Health Department being responsible for the organisation.

The number of domestic helps employed under the control of the Home Help Organiser is as follows : —

(a) Whole-time	...	...	...	...	8
(b) Part-time	...	...	...	...	145
(c) Whole-time equivalent of (b)	...	...	...	...	74

The County Council assess the need for this service on an hourly basis and the number of hours allotted to Bedford Borough was 57,500. The actual hours served and the number of cases where help was provided were : —

	No. of Cases	No. of Hours
(i) Maternity	85	3,578
(ii) Tuberculosis	1	142½
(iii) Chronic Sick	389	48,984½
(iv) Other cases	32	952¾
Travelling Time		6,508¼
Total Hours		60,166

This service needs strengthening as it has to cope with more old people and more maternity cases each year.

18. Persons Receiving Extra Nourishment at 31/12/62

Number receiving 2 pints pasteurised milk per day and 3 eggs per week	...	...	...	...	...	15
Number receiving 1 pint pasteurised milk per day and 3 eggs per week	...	...	...	...	...	4

19. Vaccination and Immunisation

The following tables show the numbers vaccinated or immunised. During the year vaccination against tetanus was instituted and where possible a triple antigen is now used for infants (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus) : —

(A) SMALLPOX

No. of Persons Vaccinated	
No. of Primary Vaccinations	No. Revaccinated
5,120	5,693

Large increase because of smallpox scare.

(B) POLIOMYELITIS

No. of Persons who received Primary Course of			* No. of Reinforcing Injections/ Doses given		
2 Salk Injections	3 Oral Doses	Total who received Primary Course	3rd Salk Injection	4th Salk Injection	Oral Dose
401 (13)	856 (45)	1,257 (58)	1,123 (48)	143	1,704 (37)

* Cannot be termed "Persons" receiving reinforcing as a person receiving a 4th oral dose may have had a 3rd Salk or Primary Course in the same year. Figures in brackets relate to persons vaccinated in the Borough but who reside out and who mostly attend school or work in Bedford (not included in main figures).

(C) DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

Primary Courses				
Diphtheria	Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Triple Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Combined Diphtheria and Tetanus
80	24	—	751 (22)	115 (7)

Reinforcing				
Diphtheria	Combined Diphtheria and Whooping Cough	Whooping Cough	Triple Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus	Combined Diphtheria and Tetanus
560 (13)	16	—	56 (2)	42

The following table shows how the work was carried out : —

	Immunised or Vaccinated at Clinics, Schools or Nurseries by M.O.		Immunised or Vaccinated by General Practitioners	
	Primary Courses	Reinforcing Courses	Primary Courses	Reinforcing Courses
Smallpox	43	85	5,077	5,608
Poliomyelitis	715 (58)	3rd 311 (20) 4th 15 Oral 1,045 (39)	542	3rd 812 (28) 4th 128 Oral 659
Diphtheria	68	535 (12)	12	25 (1)
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Comb. Diph./Wh. Cough	—	—	24	16
Triple Diphth./Wh. Cough/Tetanus	318 (12)	—	433 (10)	56 (2)
Comb. Diphth./Tetanus	106 (5)	39	9 (2)	3

Figures in brackets relate to persons vaccinated in the Borough but who reside out and who mostly attend school or work in Bedford.

Number of children in the area on the 31st December, 1962, who had completed a course of diphtheria immunisation at any time between 1st January, 1948 and 31st December, 1962 : —

Age on 31/12/62 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1962	1—4 1958—61	5—9 1953—57	10—14 1948—52	Total under 15
No. of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in the period 1958-62 ...	286	3,113	3,174	2,252	8,825
No. of children whose last course (primary or booster) was completed in 1957 or earlier	—	—	1,043	2,545	3,584

(D) B.C.G. VACCINATION (TUBERCULOSIS)

Initial Heaf Test			B.C.G. Vaccination Children referred to Chest Clinic			
No. of children tested	No. found to be positive and referred to Chest Clinic	No. found to be negative	No. of children vaccinated	No evidence of pulmonary tuberculosis	Failed to attend for x-ray examination	To be kept under observa- tion at Chest Clinic
899	137	712	707	126	4	7

The large scale trials of Sabin Oral poliomyelitis vaccine given on sugar or in syrup were successful and this is now replacing Salk vaccine completely. Much expert opinion, which I accept, is that all children should be revaccinated with oral vaccine irrespective of how many doses of Salk they may have had. It is to be hoped that we will be free to advise this in due course.

20. *Home Health Services*

(a) Co-operation with General Medical Practitioners.

There are no special arrangements for health visitors to work with a particular family doctor, or group of doctors. There are numerous difficulties to any such scheme.

I have no doubt that such a scheme is desirable, but, as reported before, the shortage of health visitors, quite likely to get worse, prohibits any attempt along these lines at present.

(b) Arrangements for Follow Up Cases Discharged from Hospital.

Geriatric cases are referred to the health visitors and should any matter need attention the health visitor reports to the family doctor, or Medical Officer of Health, as appropriate.

It is, of course, open to any hospital consultant to get in touch with the domiciliary service through the hospital almoner, so that a health visitor can report on the home situation and enlist whatever agencies are indicated.

It is rare for them to do so in respect of health visitors, though the home nurses are commonly utilised to help with treatment.

Health Education in Bedford, 1962

The Borough makes use of the services of the County Health Education Officer. This enables campaigns to be planned over a wide area.

One such campaign in 1962 concerned Dental Care. Posters and leaflets were displayed in the Child Welfare Centres and a letter was sent to the head teachers of all schools (including private ones) in the town. The following extracts are taken from the letter : —

“No programme of dental health education can be effective without the active co-operation of the schools in two ways. Firstly, the children need to be instructed in dental hygiene and here my Department is available to give whatever assistance may be wanted. For example, leaflets and posters can be provided and some specimens are enclosed.

“Secondly, you can help by encouraging the children in reasonable eating habits as far as possible, although I realise that this is a tall order. If you have a tuckshop in your school it can be used to set a good example by selling hard-crusted wholemeal rolls with butter or margarine instead of buns and cakes ; potato crisps instead of biscuits ; nuts of all types, raw and roasted, salted and unsalted, in

place of sweets ; raisins, and, where possible, fresh fruits and carrots. Iced lollies and colas can be harmful and their consumption should not be encouraged. Children should, on the other hand, be encouraged to brush their teeth or rinse their mouths with water after every meal."

The poster campaign in the clinics at the end of the year was directed to vaccination and immunisation. Posters were also sent to all the general practitioners and an advertisement appeared in the Bedfordshire Times.

Another subject that is always to the fore is Home Safety. There is a voluntary Home Safety Committee for Bedford and District on which the Department is represented. This Committee organised a very successful demonstration and exhibition in October on the theme "Housework with Ease". In addition, the Health Education Officer gave a talk on the subject to a meeting at Union Street Clinic attended by practically all the Home Helps in Bedford and the north-east of the County.

Mothercraft classes and classes in relaxation for expectant mothers continued to be held at Union Street and Putnoe Clinics and were well attended. At intervals an evening film show was held to which the expectant mothers were invited to bring their husbands.

Every member of the Health Department staff who has contact with the public is a health educator to some degree, not least the Public Health Inspectors. Their multifarious duties include responsibility for clean air and clean food, and they again organised courses for food handlers during the year.

21. *Social Welfare Work*

Work undertaken during the year was as follows : —

Number of families visited (25 in the County) ...	...	134
Number of visits made ...	...	1,573

The Social Welfare Officer is concerned with the family situation as a whole. Families are often in need of someone of experience, tact and impartiality, able to sort out family problems and make contacts with appropriate organisations and individuals. The list of Probation Service, N.S.P.C.C., Child Guidance, Marriage Guidance, National Assistance Board and numerous voluntary and statutory organisations is a formidable one. The Social Welfare Officer, by training and experience, can help unravel some of the complicated problems which, by causing undue mental stress, react unfavourably upon the marriage and the management of the children. This is very time-consuming work and only becomes possible in many cases if the Social Worker is able to establish such a relationship that advice and guidance will be accepted, without this little can be achieved.

It is extraordinarily difficult to help people, but distressingly easy to achieve nothing.

22. *Chiropody*

The Old People's Welfare Committee have for some years past operated a Chiropody Clinic for elderly persons with the free use of one of the Local Authority's clinics, and the expenses incurred in the running of this clinic are borne by the Local Authority.

Number of attendances during year	...	...	...	2,041
Number of domiciliary visits by chiropodists	...	...	...	542

In addition to the above clinic, the County Council has a whole-time chiropodist and on Fridays he holds a clinic at 29 Barford Avenue. Details of the work undertaken are given below. As well as the elderly, he undertakes treatment of the physically handicapped.

Number of attendances during year	...	...	...	220
Number of domiciliary visits	...	...	...	121

This work is regarded as an essential one for the foot comfort of the elderly and infirm and is one that is greatly appreciated by those receiving treatment.

One suspects that much foot trouble has its origin in the unsatisfactory design of women's shoes, where some money-making design gimmick takes precedence over the requirements of the normal foot.

IX. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

1. *Administration*

The County Council continue to provide the Service in the Borough for the Corporation, in conjunction with that for the northern part of the County.

The Service is operated under the direction of the Mental Health Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee, through the County Medical Officer. The day-to-day running of the Service is organised by the Chief Mental Welfare Officer; he and his Assistant, who have both qualified as Psychiatric Social Workers, have responsibilities for the whole County, including the Borough. They have a Senior Clerk to assist them. In Bedford, there are a Senior Mental Welfare Officer (who is also a Psychiatric Social Worker), two Trainee Mental Welfare Officers, and two shorthand-typists. All the Mental Welfare Officers are male. The Service is available at all times by means of a rota system.

Several Universities make use of the Service as a fieldwork training placement for social work students.

2. *Community Care*

The Service provides community care for persons suffering from all types of mental disorder. As was explained in last year's report, the aim of community care is to enable such persons, wherever possible, to come to terms with themselves, with their families and with society without resort to Hospital admission (although such admission, compulsory if necessary, is arranged when desirable). It is hoped that the patient will eventually be able to dispense with the Mental Welfare

Officer's services, reassured by the knowledge that help is freely available if desired. A close liaison is maintained with the General Practitioner, and with other Departments and Services when necessary.

There was an increase of nearly 19% in cases of mental illness and of just over 32% in cases of mental handicap. Of 276 mental illness referrals, 156 were from family doctors, 28 from relatives, whilst police, hospitals and probation officers referred most of the remainder.

Tables A and B show the sex/age distribution, respectively, of the cases of mental illness and of subnormality and severe subnormality. Again, about one-fifth of the mentally ill persons referred were within the over 60 years age-group. Every effort is made to avoid the admission to Psychiatric Hospitals of persons in this age-group, by liaison with the Welfare Department and the Geriatric Consultant.

Table C shows total number of cases, with breakdown by category and sex.

Mental disorder is a general term including mental illness, arrested or incomplete development of mind, psychopathic disorders.

Mental subnormality means a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind, not amounting to severe subnormality of mind or intelligence.

Severe subnormality means that the patient is incapable of living an independent life, or of guarding himself against serious exploitation.

Hospital care has been obtained for all urgent cases of mental illness. Old people sometimes present difficulties where the need is not urgent, but it is hoped that matters will improve considerably when the Special Residential Home for the Elderly Mentally Infirm, which will serve North Bedfordshire including the Borough, is completed in late 1963. There are no cases of mental handicap awaiting hospital care in the Borough.

3. Training and Occupation

The purpose-built Training Centre at Kempston, provided by the County Council for the North Beds. area, including the Borough, now accommodates 56 juniors and adults of both sexes. A separate workshop unit on the same site was opened in May, 1962 for 15 older boys and men, thus releasing places for juniors in the main Centre. There is a male Craft Instructor in charge of the Workshop Unit.

A separate Centre for adults of both sexes, to be run as a Sheltered Workshop, is in the preliminary stages of planning. When this is completed, the existing Centre, including the Workshop Unit, will be used entirely for juniors. The full need for North Bedfordshire should then be met for some years.

Table D shows the position regarding persons resident within the Borough and attending the Centre or waiting for places, as at 31st December, 1962. In addition, there was at that date in the Borough one mentally handicapped girl under 16 years of age, who was unable

by reason of emotional disability to attend a Centre, and for whom home teaching was required. It has still proved impossible to recruit a Home Teacher.

4. *Clubs*

A Club for the Handicapped, sponsored by the Bedford & District Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and organised by an independent Committee, meets on two evenings monthly in hired premises. Most of the members are mentally handicapped and the Club provides a valuable social outlet for them.

5. *Voluntary Societies*

The Bedford & District Society, mentioned above, is affiliated to the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, as are three other similar Societies in the County. Apart from its work for the Club, the Society has done much to further the welfare of the mentally handicapped in this area.

TABLE A—MENTAL ILLNESS—SEX/AGE DISTRIBUTION

	Age							Totals
	Under 21	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71 and over	
Males ...	14	20	33	25	21	16	3	132
Females ...	13	32	33	17	18	13	18	144
Totals ...	27	52	66	42	39	29	21	276

TABLE B—MENTAL SUBNORMALITY AND SEVERE SUBNORMALITY—SEX/AGE DISTRIBUTION

	Age			Totals
	Under 7 years	7-15 years	16 years upwards	
Males ...	4	5	13	22
Females ...	3	3	13	19
Totals ...	7	8	26	41

TABLE C

Category of Disorder				Cases Referred					
				Old		New		Total	
				M	F	M	F	M	F
Mental Illness	...	...		60	81	72	63	132	144
Psychopathy	...	...					
Subnormality	...	...		12	11	10	8	22	19
Severe Subnormality	...								
Totals	...	...		72	92	82	71	154	163
				164		153		317	

TABLE D—TRAINING FACILITIES AS AT 31/12/62

	Under 16			16 yrs. & over			Total		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Attending Austin Canons	11	5*	16	5	7	12	16	12	28
Waiting for places	—	—	—	3	4	7	3	4	7
Total Immediate Need	11	5	16	8	11	19	19	16	35

* Includes one part-time.

X. WELFARE

1. *Blind*

Report of the Home Teacher for the Blind

There were 124 people registered as blind and 7 as partially sighted in 1962, and on 31st December, 1962 there were 135 people on the blind register and 15 on the partially sighted register.

Quite a number of people registered during the year were referred by friends, partly because of the handicraft classes. Very few people were referred who were not later registered.

Interest in the handicraft classes had increased during the year, and approximately one-third of the people attend the classes, most of them

quite regularly. Many people who now do handicrafts had not previously done anything in this way, since losing their sight. There is a very friendly atmosphere at the classes and people who prefer to sit and chat do this. Some of them play dominoes for part of the afternoon.

Since the Borough Bus has been available more people have been able to attend the classes, as many of them could not get to the centres on their own.

An outing was arranged for the members of the handicraft classes, and this was well supported. The people paid their own expenses and seemed to enjoy the outing, which was a country ride. Although very few of them could see the countryside, they seemed to enjoy being in the fresh air, and different surroundings.

There was also a Harvest Festival Service for the Blind held at St. John's Church in October. This was conducted by the Rector, and a Free Church Minister took part in the Service. The lessons were read by two of the blind people. After the Service light refreshments were served in the Church Hall. The Service was well supported, and gifts were sent to the housebound people who were unable to attend. With the help of volunteers transport was provided for all those who needed it.

Holidays were arranged for several blind people, some of them paid their own expenses and some were subsidised by the Council. Most of the holidays arranged were for people to go to the Isle of Ely Society for the Blind, Holiday Home at Hunstanton; one person went to the R.N.I.B. Holiday Home for deaf-blind people at Burnham-on-Sea.

Registration : —

Many new people are referred by the National Assistance Board, as when they are registered as blind it does mean an increase in their allowance. Quite a number of them have been referred by their friends.

Miscellaneous : —

When a person is first registered, they may be in need of a wireless, which can be obtained through the Wireless for the Blind Fund. They are also entitled to a free wireless licence. Any repairs that are needed to any wireless can be paid for by the North Bedfordshire Society for the Welfare of the Blind and they also make other small grants to needy people.

2. *Deaf*

Those persons who are deaf or hard of hearing are dealt with through the St. Albans Diocesan Mission to the Deaf and Dumb, a voluntary organisation.

3. *General Classes of Handicapped*

The "general classes" of handicapped persons embrace those suffering from amputations, injuries to the body, congenital malformation and deformities, arthritis and rheumatism, disseminated sclerosis, poliomyelitis, hemiplegia and other crippling disabilities as well as diseases

of the digestive and genito-urinary systems, of the heart or circulatory system, of the respiratory system, and of the skin ; epilepsy, neuroses and psychoses and other nervous and mental disorders, as well as respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis.

Although this Department can help with material things such as hoists to lift the paralysed, " Helping Hands ", Zimmer walking frames, stocking pullers-on, alterations and adaptations to houses, supplying of sheds for invalid carriages, many of the problems handicapped persons are up against are of a social nature and they call on the Welfare Officer to help sort them out. This might entail exhaustive enquiries from other departments, but again brings contact with many organisations who have all proved to be extremely helpful. A great help has been the setting up of social clubs for the disabled. They are well attended and in many cases seeing the handicapped there and talking to them saves the Welfare Officer a home visit.

The number of disabled on the register has steadily increased due to the fact that this department has gradually been acknowledged by both statutory and voluntary bodies, and many people have been referred to us.

Many of the disabled have received help from the department in their homes, such as handrails, the raising of toilet seats, bathroom grips, putting up of a wooden shed to house an electrically powered chair, apart from the issue of stocking pull-ons, walking frames and Helping Hand Pick-Up sticks. All the items have been much appreciated by the disabled as they give the people confidence to move about in their homes, whereas otherwise they would just sit still.

The Bedford Modern and Bedford schools combined have been a great help during the year with taking people out in their wheelchairs, redecorating some of the people's rooms to make the outlook for them brighter again, and, in one instance, playing chess with one of the disabled who lives alone. These boys, with their youthful and fresh approach, have given much pleasure to the disabled who cannot praise them too highly.

This department also has a most valuable visitor who takes on visiting some of the disabled who live alone and reports back to the Welfare Officer each week.

A Jamaican who had been disabled by an accident at his place of work and who was illiterate required a great deal of help with repatriation to Jamaica. Many forms had to be filled in and many letters written, but a letter has been received from him to say how happy he is now to be back amongst his family. Holiday arrangements were made last year for several people who came back happy and refreshed. A young woman, disabled by a fall at work, was assisted in finding a telephone operator's job at the Bedford Hospital.

The Welfare Officer " looks in " regularly at the clubs for the disabled run by the Disabled Association ; this is a great help to her as seeing these people who can leave their homes at the club assures her that they are all right and saves a home visit.

During the year there has been a most happy relationship with other departments such as N.A.B., Ministry of Pensions, Engineers and Planning Departments, etc., apart from the Red Cross, Disabled Association, C.A.B., doctors and almoners and the British Legion, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment.

The number of disabled persons on the register now stands at 160.

WELFARE DEPARTMENT—PROGRESS REPORT.

	On Register 1961	1962
General Classes ...	107	160
Blind	138	150
Deaf	28	30

XI. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

In the Autumn of 1960 I approached Professor W. J. H. Butterfield of Guy’s Hospital with the suggestion that we should carry out a major survey to detect the unknown diabetics in Bedford, estimated to be between 1-2 per cent of the population. I will briefly outline what was done. A detailed report is available in the Health Department, which has press cuttings and photographs.

The aims of the survey were : to find and treat the 300-400 unknown diabetics in Bedford ; to do research into diabetes and to encourage diabetes detection schemes elsewhere.

A rapid, specific test for glucose in the urine (not normally present) enables one to select an “ at risk ” group of the population for further investigation (blood sugar and clinical examination). Therefore, the testing of urines was the first step.

During 1961 the Health Department, in conjunction with the Department of Experimental Medicine of Guy’s Hospital, together with the British Diabetic Association, the Ames Company, Technicon Limited and Patrick Dolan Associates (public relations), formed a team under the Chairmanship of Professor Butterfield to carry out a detection survey for diabetes.

A public relations programme was drawn up by Mr. John Lawrie of Patrick Dolan Associates and both he and I worked with and had the fullest support from Mr. Janes, Editor of the Bedfordshire Times, whose help was invaluable in promoting the success of the survey.

The Mayor, Alderman A. H. Randall, called a meeting of voluntary organisations to a well attended meeting to raise volunteers.

About 40,000 polypots, lids, labels, instruction sheets and envelopes, delivered in bulk had to be assembled and put into carrier bags.

Instruction sheets and delivery lists had to be made up from the electoral roll for volunteers. The Girl Guides and Health Department did most of the packaging and the Department all the volunteer lists. Area street maps for the Area Supervisors were made by the Civil Defence Office.

Mr. A. S. Hislop, Civil Defence Officer, and his staff, supported by many volunteers from organisations such as the Round Table, Red Cross, W.V.S., and by some 400 volunteers from Bedford High School, Dame Alice Harpur School, the Convent of the Holy Ghost School, Bedford School, Bedford Modern School, the Teachers' Training College, Mander College and the Bedford College of Physical Education, carried out the work of delivering pamphlets and envelopes containing the sample pots to about 10,000 households.

The survey was successfully carried out and 356 diabetics, many in a very early stage of the disease, were discovered. Research is now going on into the best ways of treating the early mild diabetics. This work is proceeding in the clinic at Union Street and we are lucky to have a team from Guy's Hospital, Kings College Hospital and the London School of Hygiene coming down to carry out the necessary scientific work.

Perhaps, however, the most striking thing about the diabetes survey and our follow-up research at the so-called Borderline Clinic at Union Street, is not the enthusiasm of the scientific workers but the outstanding degree of co-operation shown by members of the public. Because an essential part of such an investigation is to compare the rate of change in the borderline diabetics with those which normally take place in similar people; we have, therefore, to match our borderliners with an equal number of normal people to have a reliable yard-stick. We have found that the public quite rightly feel that they are making a useful contribution to medical research and that the fears expressed by many people over such activities causing neurosis are unfounded. The research workers and myself wish to pay tribute to all those who are attending this clinic and helping us with this research. It is indeed a most heartening tribute to the good sense of these people. This result was not, of course, achieved by mere good luck. Those attending the Borderline Clinic were called up in batches to be addressed by members of the Department of Experimental Medicine at a series of meetings to give them a chance of making other arrangements. The fact that co-operation has been of the order of 98 per cent has been quite outstanding. The fact that we can diagnose diabetes at an early stage faces us with many problems and money ought to be spent on evaluating and making our procedures more selective, economic and efficient.

Perhaps as some degree of the recognition of the importance of the Bedford Diabetes Detection Survey it might be mentioned that the Department of Experimental Medicine and the Medical Officer of Health presented papers to a meeting of the British Diabetic Association at Cambridge in September, 1962. This meeting was attended by all those interested in research into diabetes in this country and many representatives from abroad. Furthermore, your Medical Officer of Health has been asked to address the Annual General Meeting of the British

Medical Association at Oxford in July, 1963, and the Epidemiological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine.

What has struck me is the utter failure of the community to spend reasonable amounts of money on medical research; rough estimates are: 10 millions pounds spent by the Medical Research Council, 7 million pounds spent by the pharmaceutical industry and something like 14 million pounds from private foundations and funds. The Government contribution is, therefore, small indeed when we remember that the egg subsidy may amount to something like 47 million pounds. The amount of money spent by the community on tobacco approximating to 1,000 million pounds should surely make people see the figures in some perspective and justify my comment that much lip service but little practical support is given to research.

The position with regard to research into preventive medicine is even worse. Funds for preventive medicine tend to have a very low order of priority.

In the case of diphtheria immunisation, the success I have already mentioned can be to some extent offset by pointing out that the immunising agents we used to achieve our results had been available for many years and there was no good reason for thinking that our success could not have been ten years earlier, because we had a clear demonstration of the ability of large cities in Canada, namely Hamilton and Toronto, in eliminating diphtheria in the early 1930's by means of an intensive campaign. One can, therefore, evaluate our delay in instituting this measure as costing thousands of lives.

Avoidable delay in the implementation of other preventive measures has occurred on a very substantial scale.

The need for a special research unit to carry out trials and demonstrations with regard to preventive medicine is urgently required.

XII. CONCLUSION

Public interest ought to be focussed on improving our services and overcoming shortages of personnel. This will have to be by improving conditions of work and raising the salaries to levels competitive to those in other fields: unless one accepts that local authority services must necessarily be inferior.

The dental service has priority groups, mothers and children, but gets no effective priority under present conditions. The child guidance service mainly keeps parents and children waiting for two to three months and the shortage of psychiatric time hinders effective treatment thereafter.

Recruitment to the Public Health Service on the medical side is poor and many of those leaving have higher qualifications.

Many of the official estimates over the last few years with regard to need have been shown, within a comparatively short period of time, to be under-estimates.

REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

For the Year 1962

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.
August, 1963.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF BEDFORD.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the privilege to present my Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Inspectorial staff for the year 1962.

Unfortunately towards the end of the year two Inspectors with a number of years service obtained appointments with other Authorities and this caused a considerable amount of disruption of routine duties.

The new legislation controlling Houses in Multiple Occupation came into operation during the year and to assist in dealing with the problem the Council appointed an additional Inspector who had trained in the department and obtained his Diploma in July. It has thus been possible to commence a complete survey of all known houses to ascertain whether action should be taken to :

- (a) Improve the maintenance of the premises and facilities by means of Management Orders ;
- (b) To ascertain the facilities to be provided for the numbers of persons occupying the premises ; and
- (c) To provide means of escape in case of fire where thought necessary. (The standards adopted by the Council are fully set out in the section on Houses in Multiple Occupation.)

This legislation is most difficult to apply in view of the numerous alternatives available to owners and it will not be possible to complete the survey and improve facilities in all the known houses as quickly as first anticipated. The cleanliness of the premises and maintenance of facilities are definitely improved after service of notice of intention to make a Management Order but the provision of additional facilities and fire escapes will take several months to achieve. However, the work will proceed as quickly as possible.

The Slum Clearance Programme has continued as planned and by the end of 1964 it is hoped that few really unfit houses will be remaining in the Borough. It is hoped shortly to commence systematic inspections of the sound properties in the Borough and wherever possible to recommend improvement by means of grants. It is rather incongruous that it is now possible to insist on wash hand basins and showers or baths with constant hot water in houses in multiple occupation and not be able to insist on these essential facilities in the older singly occupied houses.

The survey of atmospheric pollution has continued throughout the year and proved beyond any doubt that the pollution produced by fur-

naces and domestic chimneys in the area is not easily dispersed, but hangs like a pall over the town. This is particularly noticeable when the area is viewed from the new multi-storey buildings recently erected. It is more essential than ever to eliminate atmospheric pollution from all sources as far as possible. The pollution at and near ground level from road vehicles in the High Street during peak hour periods is most objectionable. This pollution is said not to be injurious to health but is certainly a serious nuisance and causes great inconvenience. The Public Health Inspectors are instructed to note any serious emissions of dark smoke from road vehicles and these cases are reported to the Chief Constable for any action he feels necessary under the Road Traffic Act, 1930. This legislation is enforced by the Police. In addition where railway engines are stationary and causing smoke nuisance the circumstances are reported to the appropriate officer of British Railways.

There has been a noticeable improvement in the standards of hygiene in the larger food shops and this has been stimulated by the opening of new Supermarkets in the town centre. The new Sainsbury Supermarket is a great improvement on the old outdated premises which were far too small and congested. The new premises are spacious with adequate preparation rooms, constructed of modern materials with modern fixtures and fittings which can be thoroughly cleansed and easily maintained at all times.

The standard of small back street shops varies greatly, some are very clean and well managed, others are of a poor standard. This lowering of standards appears to be due to the need to stock a wider variety of goods and consequently cooked meats, confectionery, vegetables and groceries are all displayed on the same counter. It is very difficult to attain the same standards of hygiene in the small general shop as in the supermarkets of today.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their appreciation and co-operation in the work undertaken : to the Medical Officer of Health and all other Chief Officers and their staffs for their willing help and advice ; to my Deputy and Public Health Inspectors for loyal support and in particular the way in which they have carried out their duties under the Housing Act, 1961, including late night week-end visiting without the slightest dissension ; and the clerical and outdoor staff for their loyal support throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. AVISON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

I. HOUSING ACT, 1957

(A) UNFIT HOUSES

During 1962, 187 houses and one part of a building were represented as being unfit for human habitation. 57 of these properties were in the ownership of the Borough Council and 131 were owned by private landlords. A total of 145 houses were demolished during the year and during the same period 43 houses and five parts of houses were closed. Of the properties demolished 95 were owned by the Council and 50 dwellings were privately owned, 2 having previously been subject to Closing Orders and 9 were in clearance areas confirmed during previous years.

The properties demolished, were in the main, houses in the Central, Pilcroft Street and Black Tom areas. During 1962, 178 families consisting of 541 persons were displaced from unfit dwellings, the majority of families being rehoused by the Housing Committee.

Proceedings were instituted against the owner of 75 Ashburnham Road for permitting a basement to be occupied in contravention of an undertaking he had given not to let this basement until works of repair had been carried out to the satisfaction of the Council. The magistrates imposed a fine of £10 with two guineas costs.

A Closing Order was made in 1960 in respect of basement rooms at 69 Ashburnham Road and inspection during the period under review revealed that these rooms were being occupied by a man, wife and three children. Proceedings were authorised to be instituted against the owner of this house and the case was heard during 1963.

It will be realised that the Slum Clearance Programme is now fairly well advanced and the Public Health Committee have given consideration to routine inspection of houses for the purpose of asking owners to carry out repairs where these are required and also to consider taking advantage of the scheme of improvement grants. I anticipate that a start on these inspections will commence during 1963 and feel this work, especially if owners carry out improvements to properties, will be more rewarding to the District Public Health Inspectors than the demolition of properties.

(B) HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

At the end of 1962, 643 houses were known to be in multiple occupation and were occupied by 4,427 adults and 1,366 children. The various nationalities occupying these dwellings are given at the end of the report. During 1962 the Housing (Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation) Regulations, 1962 came into operation. These Regulations em-

power the local authority, if they are satisfied that a house in multiple occupation is in an unsatisfactory state because of failure to maintain proper standards of management, to make an Order applying the code of management prescribed in the Regulations. During 1962 the Public Health Committee authorised Management Orders to be applied to 12 houses. When making a Management Order it is necessary for a full inspection of the property to be made and following upon the approval of the Public Health Committee to such action for a Notice of Intention to make a Management Order to be served on each owner of the property and for a copy of this Notice to be posted in the house where it is accessible to all persons living in the property. Objections can be made within three weeks of the Notice of Intention and providing the Committee subsequently authorise the making of a Management Order a copy of the actual Order is then sent to each owner and a copy posted in the house. It will be seen that inevitably some time must elapse between an initial inspection and the Management Order actually coming into operation. The Orders which the Committee authorised were not made until the latter part of the year and consequently it is a little difficult to indicate whether any improvement has been achieved. Certainly the common rooms and passages appeared to be cleaner and a fair amount of redecoration work has been carried out but until one has had further experience no real opinion can be given.

1,321 inspections were made to houses in multiple occupation and statutory notices setting out the permitted number of persons who can occupy each room were served in respect of 26 dwellings.

Prosecutions in respect of overcrowding were instituted in 5 instances. The cases were proved and the defendants were fined a total of £200. In one case the defence put forward was that the person being charged with the offence was not the person responsible for the overcrowding. The magistrate adjourned the case for one month and finally decided that the case had been proved.

56 Goldington Avenue, a house which had required constant supervision in the past was purchased by the Council and it became necessary to dispose of a quantity of furniture which was left in the house, some of this it was possible to sell and the remainder because of its filthy condition was destroyed.

I did receive a request from representatives of the Indian and Pakistani communities for classes in English to be arranged for them and the Director of Education was approached with a view to specific classes being held for the teaching of English to members of these communities. The Director of Education stated that an attempt to hold classes had been made and that although a course had been arranged no students enrolled. This matter has again been discussed with the representatives of the Indian and Pakistan communities but so far it has not been possible to arrange a suitable course or indeed to be certain that a sufficient number of students would attend.

48 applications were received from Italian nationals for a certificate stating that sufficient accommodation was available for families wishing to come from Italy to reside in Bedford. 43 were approved and 5 refused.

In November I addressed a Joint Meeting of the London Northern Home Counties and South Eastern Centres of the Association of Public Health Inspectors on the subject of the multiple occupation of dwellings.

(C) OPERATION "RESCUE"

A further 14 houses have been purchased as a result of Operation "Rescue", 7 of these being in the Saints Area adjoining Kimbolton Road and 7 in Warwick Avenue. It will be realised that the purchase of properties in these areas is rather a slow process but nevertheless as each house can be purchased and converted by the Council into flats it is one step nearer to the ultimate objective.

(D) IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Borough Engineer is responsible for the scheme of Improvement Grants which has resulted in many houses being provided with bathrooms and hot water systems.

96 Improvement Grants were made during 1962. Most of these to owner/occupiers. As I have already mentioned it is hoped to carry out a systematic inspection of the older houses in the town and to recommend owners to take advantage of the Improvement Grant Scheme.

(E) PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

57 properties in redevelopment areas have been purchased on behalf of the Council.

II. RENT ACT, 1957

Only one application for a certificate of disrepair was received. This was approved as was an application outstanding from 1961. Two applications for cancellation of certificates of disrepair were also approved. As will be seen very little use is now made of the certificate of disrepair procedure by tenants of controlled houses.

III. FURNISHED HOUSES (RENT CONTROL) ACT, 1946

Proceedings were instituted against the owners of two houses both let in multiple occupation for charging rents in excess of those fixed by the Rent Tribunal. Four lettings at each house were involved and fines totalling £80 were imposed.

Reference to the Rent Tribunal was made in respect of a ground floor flat at a house in Park Avenue. The Tribunal reduced the rent from £4 10s. per week to £3 per week.

IV. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

(A) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

189 drains were tested on complaint or as a result of rat infestation and where necessary repairs to or reconstruction of the drains were carried out. At 213 premises the drains were cleared of blockages.

It was necessary to serve notices under Section 24 of the Act in respect of 46 premises. In these cases the repairs are carried out by the Local Authority and the cost recovered from the owners of the houses. 4 drains were tested on payment of a fee of two guineas and a report issued. Three of these drains were defective and subsequently repaired.

(B) WATER SUPPLY

The only properties without an internal water supply are the six cottages at Biddenham Ford End and 3 of these are now vacant.

(C) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Most properties in the town have water closets connected to the public sewer, the exceptions being a few houses and small factories where the sewer is not available.

Demolitions continue to reduce the number of houses which have W.C.'s at the end of the garden and the estimate is now 200; this includes the Almshouses in Dame Alice Street. Plans have been submitted for the reconstruction of these Almshouses which would provide an internal W.C. to each letting.

(D) OTHER AMENITIES

Bathrooms were provided at 76 houses and it is estimated that some 3,150 houses in the Borough are without fixed baths. This figure has been reduced considerably over the past ten years as demolitions have taken place and house owners have taken advantage of improvement grants. The number of houses which have no secondary means of access has been reduced to 52.

(E) LICENSED PREMISES

Inspections of licensed premises have been made during the year and in general, conditions were found to be satisfactory.

The Licensing Act, 1961 requires clubs to be registered for the sale of intoxicating liquor. Local Authorities are empowered to raise objections to registration if they consider the premises are unsuitable. Inspections of the premises for which application for licence has been made, were carried out and 26 objections were raised. As a result one application for licence was withdrawn and repairs and improvements were carried out at the other premises.

(F) MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

A site licence continues in force in respect of one caravan at 1 Goldington Green. A licence expiring on 30th September, 1962, was issued in respect of a van in Bury Walk pending proposals being submitted for the development of the site. The site has not been developed but the van was removed before the expiration of the licence. Inspections are made of caravans occupied by persons employed on building sites.

A number of such caravans are stationed in the town and are exempt from the requirement to obtain a site licence. Complaints were received during the year of caravans being stationed in the Pilcroft Street area, on Cox's pits ; on land at Brickhill and the Bury Spinney at Goldington. In most cases the occupants of these vans were scrap metal dealers who travel to various parts of the country plying their trade. They are not interested in hygiene and invariably worry people occupying houses near by in order to obtain a water supply. Visits are also made to the various Fairs and Circuses which visit the town in order to ensure that the sanitary arrangements and the regulations relating to food hygiene are satisfactory.

(G) FILTHY OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

In one or two cases it has been necessary to carry out treatment in respect of bed bugs or fleas and in some cases old furniture has been removed and destroyed. It was not necessary to take any action under Section 84 of the Public Health Act during the year.

(H) DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

(i) *Disinfection*

Small amounts of bedding have been disinfected free of charge after infectious illness and in some other cases disinfection has been carried out on request and a charge made. The disinfector is now working satisfactorily.

(ii) *Disinfestation*

There was a considerable reduction in the number of requests made for the department to carry out treatment to eradicate various insect pests. This was particularly so in respect of wasps nests, 15 being dealt with during 1962 as against 42 in the previous year. The only charge made for the destruction of these pests is in respect of wasps nests when a fee of 10/- is payable.

(I) STATUTORY NOTICES

Statutory notices are issued only after the person concerned has failed to comply with the requirements of an informal notice. During 1962 it was necessary to serve six such notices in respect of contraventions of the Public Health Act, 1936, this figure does not include notices served under Section 24 and 39 of the Act which require the repair or reconstruction of sewers or drains.

V. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(A) FOOD PREMISES

Various food premises registered or subject to regulations under the Food and Drugs Act have been regularly inspected and it is pleasing to report that there is an increasing awareness on the part of managements and staffs for the necessity to maintain a clean and satisfactory service to their customers. Plans which are submitted to the Town

Planning Committee are inspected to ensure that the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations are complied with.

There have been a number of alterations to food shops in the town and of new shops established the Supermarkets of Sainsbury and Safeways are worthy of mention. A considerable amount of time was spent in studying the detail of plans for these premises and the management and the architects of both firms have been most co-operative in ensuring that adequate and suitable equipment and facilities have been provided.

It would seem that the number of travelling food vans has increased but it is impossible to ensure adequate supervision of this type of trading without the compulsory registration of the vehicles with the Local Authority.

(B) MARKETS

The open market stalls include 33 used for the sale of food and by constant supervision are operated reasonably satisfactorily. It has not been necessary to institute legal proceedings in connection with either smoking whilst handling food or depositing food on the ground but I still feel that susceptible foods, such as flour, confectionery, shellfish and wet fish should not be exposed to contamination as is the case in an open market. It is not possible to wrap many of these products and I feel that they should be displayed for sale only in permanent buildings where adequate protection from insects and aerial contamination is possible.

The sale of hot dogs on markets is now very prevalent, particularly at night time. Supervision of this type of trader is not easy as many of the food stores used by such traders are situated outside the Borough. It would simplify the work to control this type of trader if each one was registered with all Authorities in which he operated and thus it would be possible by co-operation with other Local Authorities to be satisfied that the products used were stored in suitable premises.

(C) ICE CREAM

The number of premises registered are as follows :

Manufacturers	...	...	...	2
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	211

This shows a small decrease on the number of premises registered in 1961.

Samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and the results were as follows :

	No. of Samples	Percentage
Grade 1—Satisfactory	52	91.23
Grade 2—Fairly Satisfactory	3	5.27
Grade 3—Unsatisfactory	1	1.75
Grade 4—Very Unsatisfactory	1	1.75
	<hr/> 57 <hr/>	

With the exception of the one Grade 4 sample the results are well within the suggestion of the Public Health Laboratory Service that over a six month period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1 ; 80% into Grades 1 and 2 ; not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

(D) SAMPLING—MILK AND OTHER FOODS

During the year 200 samples of milk and other foods were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. Three samples of Channel Island milk were reported upon by the Analyst as being deficient in fat ; the standard for this class of milk being 4%. All these samples were taken from a vending machine and in the case of the first sample a notice as required by Section 93 of the Food and Drugs Act was not sent..

Proceedings were authorised in respect of the second sample but unfortunately the information was not laid before the Justice of the Peace within twenty-eight days, as required by the Foods and Drugs Act. Proceedings were instituted in respect of the third sample, the Analyst having stated that in his opinion the sample was deficient to the extent of 4.5%. This case was dismissed by the Magistrates.

A rather unusual complaint was made in respect of the purchase of a tin of evaporated milk. The complainant stated that when the tin was opened only water came out. The two holes which had been made in the tin were plugged and it was sent to the Public Analyst for his observations. He reported that the sample contained 99.74% water and was of the opinion that it would have been impossible for any purchaser to have so completely emptied and cleaned the inside of the tin and to have filled it with water and he was of the opinion that this must have taken place during processing. Proceedings were instituted. The defendants pleaded guilty and were fined £10.

Details of other samples reported upon by the Analyst as not being genuine are given at the end of this report together with a list of foods about which complaints were received from the public and the action taken.

(E) FOOD HYGIENE COURSES

Food Hygiene Courses have continued and students were prepared for the Certificate in the Hygiene of Food Retailing and Catering of the Royal Society of Health. Seven students sat for this certificate and six were successful.

Since the commencement of the Food Hygiene Courses in 1957, 177 students have passed the examination and been awarded certificates. Certificates for the last two elementary courses were presented by the Mayor, Councillor A. G. Dawes.

There is no doubt that both the management and employees realise the need to exercise good food handling practises as the public are very conscious of poor handling and display methods.

VI. MILK AND DAIRIES (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1959 MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1949-1960

Bedford is in a specified area in which all milk sold must be Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised. As mentioned in my report for 1961, there is only one Pasteurising Dairy in the town. Most of the milk sold in the Borough during 1962 came from three premises; a dairy situated in the Bedford Rural District, one situated in Huntingdonshire and the dairy in the Borough.

The milk sold from vending machines is supplied from a dairy in Buckinghamshire, the occupier of which holds a Producer/Retailer Licence issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Samples taken from vending machines have again been disappointing and the improvement for which I was hoping during 1962 has not taken place. I have again been in communication with the Area Milk Officer and he informs me that the samples which he has taken from the farm have been satisfactory and that the conditions at the farm are very good. It would appear that milk is being left in the vending machine for too long a period and not removed daily.

49 samples from these machines were submitted for examination and 8 (16.3%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test. In all 329 milk samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory and 16 failed the prescribed test (4.9%).

During 1962 eight premises were registered as distributors of milk making a total of 98 so listed.

VII. SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1958 SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

There is only one slaughterhouse in the Borough, that being operated by Canvins Limited in Windsor Road.

The number of animals killed at this slaughterhouse during 1962 shows a reduction of some 2,000, the decrease being due to smaller numbers of sheep and pigs slaughtered. There has been a slight increase in the numbers of animals inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercus bovis but it is pleasing to note that it was not necessary to condemn any bovine animal or part of such an animal because it was affected by tuberculosis. Ten years ago the percentage of bovine animals affected by tuberculosis was: cattle excluding cows, 6.94%; cows, 22.5%. These figures were given in my predecessor's report for 1952.

Meat inspection was carried out at the slaughterhouse which is situated within the area of Kempston Urban District Council for the first nine months of 1962. As from 1st October the newly appointed Surveyor and Public Health Inspector for that district undertook these duties. We are still co-operating with the Urban District in that when the Inspector is away from duty either on holiday or is sick, inspections at the slaughterhouse are carried out by my staff.

During the year 25 licences were issued to Slaughtermen.

VIII. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

It was disappointing that the Council were unable to implement the recommendation of the Public Health Committee to adopt No. 2 Smoke Control Area during 1962, but it has been agreed that this area should be created and the expenditure spread over the years 1963/4. There are numerous objectors to the formation of this particular area on the grounds that the Borough is a clean area and that the industries to the south of the Borough, namely, the brickworks and our own generating station will nullify any beneficial results from the elimination of smoke from domestic appliances.

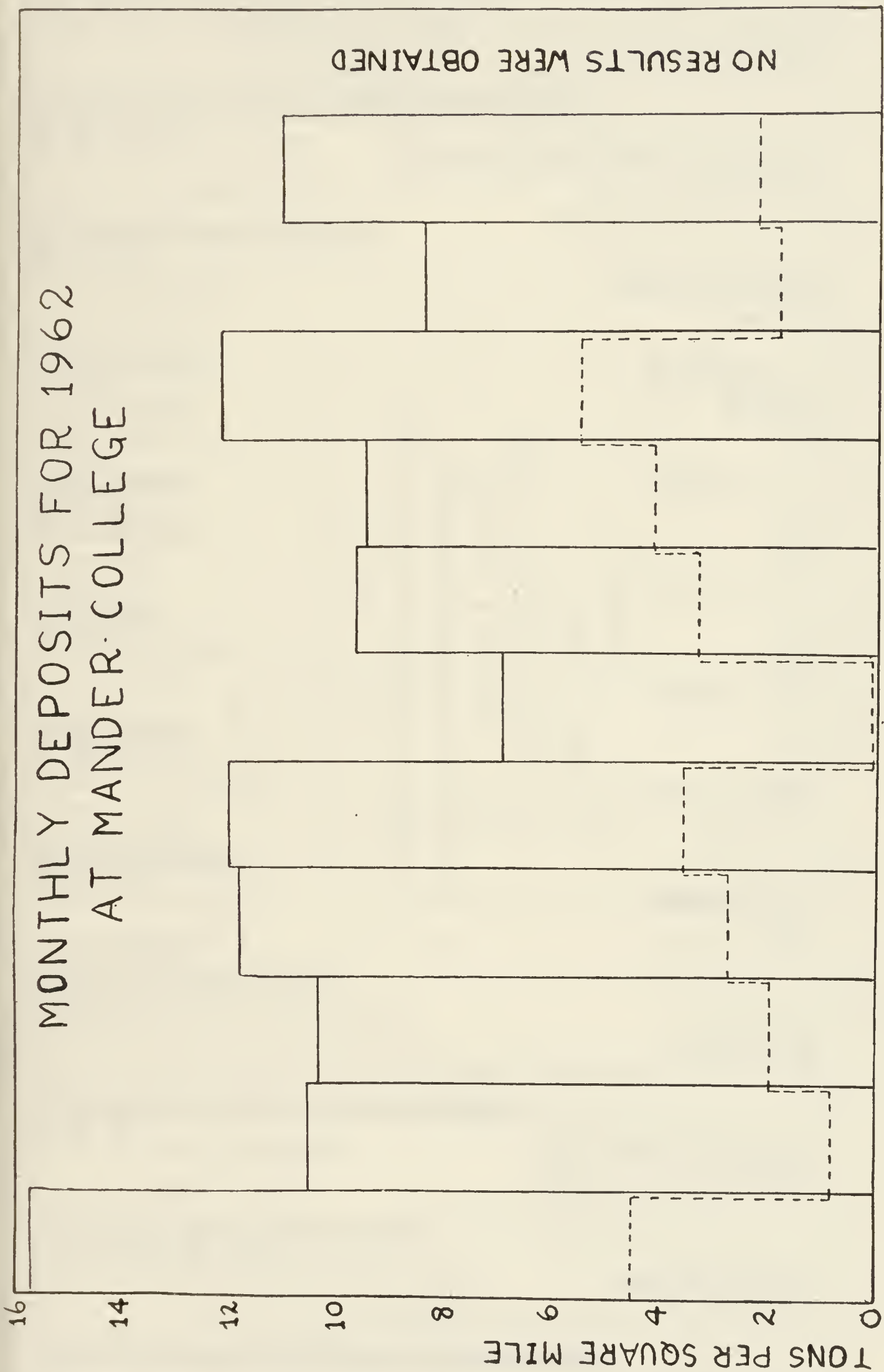
There is no remedy to the emission of sulphur fumes from the brickworks and this industry is under the control of the Alkali Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. A considerable amount of research is being carried out in an endeavour to find a solution to this particular nuisance. The Goldington Power Station which is a reasonably modern station uses 2,000 tons of poor quality fuel each day and in the light of this and the improvements which are constantly being made to eliminate atmospheric pollution every endeavour is made to effect a continuous improvement. Again this industry is controlled by the Alkali Inspector and excellent co-operation has been maintained throughout the year with this Ministry official.

Details of the daily record of atmospheric pollution are appended and indicate that atmospheric pollution at Brickhill is much less than in the dense old property towards the town centre.

Bedford's pollution problem is affected by its geographical position, as being situated in a basin, unless there is a reasonable air movement any pollution created in the area does not disperse easily. Consequently every endeavour should be taken to reduce the pollution in the Borough from both industry and dwellinghouses to a minimum. Industry has co-operated well in the implementation of the Clean Air Act and steps are being taken for further improvements.

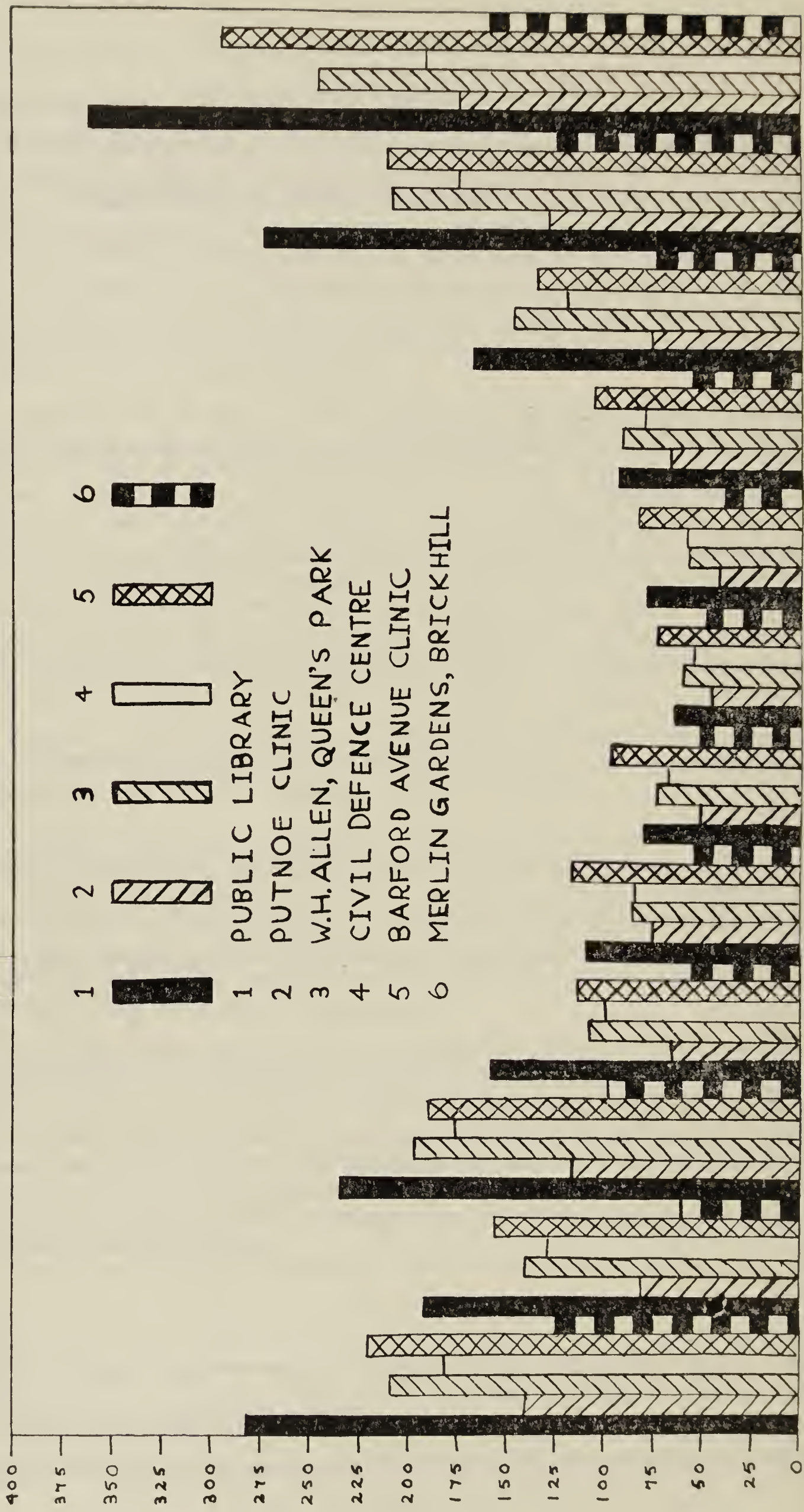
Another reason stated for the non-implementation of the Clean Air Act in relation to dwellinghouses is said to be shortage of suitable fuel. Despite the very severe winter 1962/3 although there was a shortage of specific fuels, smokeless fuel was available for the existing smoke control area. There were serious deficiencies in the delivery of fuel and it is pleasing to note that the National Coal Board realise these deficiencies and is taking steps in order to reduce them to a minimum by arranging for regional storage depots.

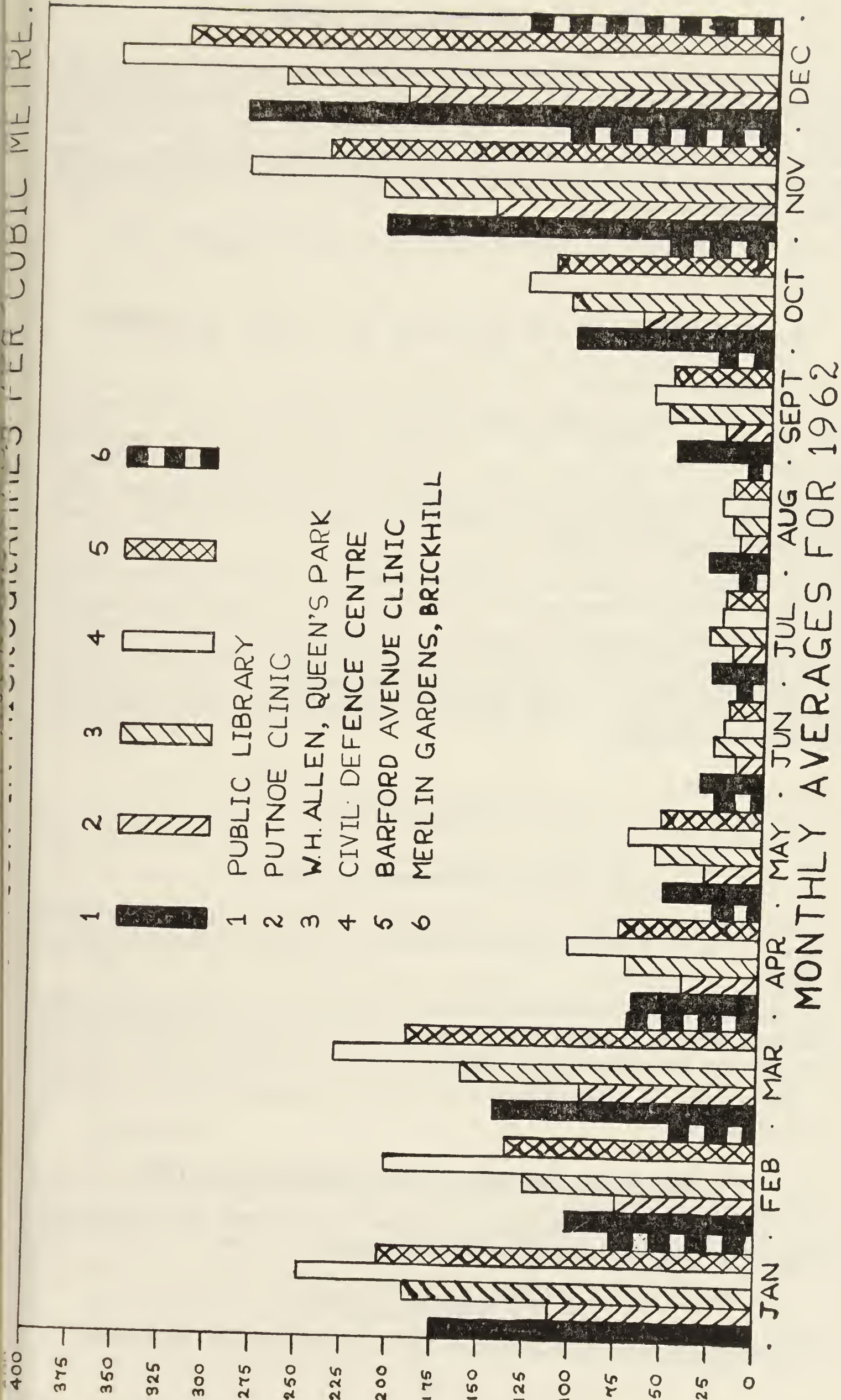
MONTHLY DEPOSITS FOR 1962 AT MANDER COLLEGE



· JAN · FEB · MAR · APR · MAY · JUN · JUL · AUG · SEPT · OCT · NOV · DEC ·

SO₂ CONCENTRATION IN MICROGRAMMES PER CUBIC METRE.





IX. FACTORIES ACT, 1957

276 inspections to factories were made during 1962. The majority are factories with mechanical power but building sites and similar works come within the provisions of the Factories' Act and inspections are made to such sites to ensure that the employees have satisfactory sanitary accommodation and that nuisance is not being caused to householders living near by.

It was necessary to serve 10 informal notices during the year.

X. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Treatment of the sewers with sodium fluoracetate was again undertaken. Some 200 manholes mainly in the centre of the town were treated and the results obtained did not compare with the highly successful treatment of the previous year. Nevertheless the number of bodies removed by the screens at the Sewage Pumping Station was in excess of that which resulted from treatments in the past when either arsenic or zinc phosphide was used.

Treatment for rodents at private houses is carried out free whilst at business premises contracts are made and 15/- per man hour charged. 38 contracts were entered into and the sum of £74 5s. received. Most of the treatments are as a result of complaints which have been received but when dealing with these complaints opportunity is taken to survey the surrounding area so as to ensure that the infestation does not spread over several premises.

XI. OTHER ACTS

1. Noise Abatement Act, 1960

It was thought that this Act would give rise to many complaints of noise nuisance but, in fact, few complaints have been received relating to noise.

The ice cream vehicles continue to give rise to complaint as the roundsmen do not appear to be prepared to abide by the permitted time allowed for chimes to be used.

It has been possible to deal with all the complaints without resorting to legal action.

2. Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

5 premises are registered. 2 samples of rag flock were submitted for analysis and were found to be satisfactory.

3. Pet Animals Act, 1951

5 premises are registered and all are satisfactorily maintained.

4. National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50

BURIAL OF THE DEAD

Burial of 2 bodies was undertaken as no other arrangements for interment had been made.

No.	Age	Sex	Cost of Burial	Recovery of Expense
1	60	M	£ s. d. 11 2 6	Death grant. Full cost recovered.
2	Stillborn	—	1 7 6	Full cost recovered.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Public Conveniences

The programme for the erection of new conveniences is proceeding slowly and it has not been possible to replace all the obsolete conveniences and provide additional facilities in the Borough. It is not easy to provide new conveniences as sites for this type of development are not easy to find.

One set of conveniences was opened during the year, namely, Everard Meadows, which will help to eliminate nuisance when the Fairs are held in the adjoining field. These will also be very well sited for the car park alongside the river and the recreational facilities used in these meadows.

It was very disappointing to learn of the wanton damage to these conveniences shortly after opening and certainly does not create a lot of enthusiasm for free facilities. The new conveniences at Kingsway were held up by the bad weather and were not completed until early 1963 and the ones to be erected in Ampthill Road were deferred as an alternative site had to be found. However, it is hoped that these latter conveniences will be erected during the coming year.

The St. Peter's conveniences continue to give rise to numerous complaints. When the long distance coaches which now pick up and put down passengers near these conveniences transfer to the New Bus Station it will be possible to close them as it is not possible for modernisations to be carried out in the present position.

2. Almshouses

The Dame Alice Almshouses are the only almshouses at present within the Borough and reconstruction and modernisation has not yet commenced, although plans have been approved for this purpose. This will result in a reduction of the number of places available for elderly persons but will provide far superior living units when completed.

The Thomas Christie redevelopment resulting from the sale of the site of the demolished almshouses in St. Loyes, should commence shortly

and will provide excellent accommodation for elderly persons. The site of this new development on the Embankment will certainly be appreciated by the occupants as a better position for this type of housing could not have been chosen.

3. Public Health Education

The Public Health Inspectors' duties under this heading during the past year have been devoted very largely to education in connection with the Housing Act, 1961, to the occupants of houses in multiple occupation.

In addition talks have been given on food hygiene and the Clean Air Act and the creation of smoke control areas to interested bodies.

Public relations are always important and time devoted to this aspect is well worth while.

4. General

Complaints were received from tenants in Windmill Close that a colony of cats were living near to the ditch which runs at the rear of the houses. It was considered that these cats were running wild and in conjunction with the R.S.P.C.A., steps were taken to eliminate the colony.

The North Beds. Water Board made a request for a Public Health Inspector to give evidence in the legal action with regard to the adequacy of water supply to a new house constructed in Shakespeare Road. An inspection was made and appropriate readings taken as to the flow of water when all taps were in use, and this evidence was given in Court. The case against the North Beds. Water Board was not proved.

XIII.

Statistical Tables

1. Housing

(A) ACTION TAKEN DURING 1962

1.	<i>Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :</i>	
(1)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	544
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	231
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerously injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	188
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	120
2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :</i>	
	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	78
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year :</i>	
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957—	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By Owners	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(a)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts—	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	58
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a)	By Owners	15
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	43
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1957—	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which demolition orders were made	42
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	31
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which closing orders were made	68
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses where closing orders were in force but which have been demolished	—
(d)	Proceedings under Section 44 of the Housing Act, 1957—	
	Number of dwellinghouses included in clearance areas demolished	10

(e)	Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ...	5
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	—
(f)	Number of Council-owned properties demolished ...	95
(g)	Number of privately-owned properties demolished without recourse to formal action ...	9

(B) SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME—PROGRESS SINCE 1955

Number of houses included in Programme	...	...	...	920
Number of houses demolished	...	...	...	720
Number of houses closed	...	...	...	80
				<hr/> 800
Number of houses still to be dealt with	...	...	...	<hr/>120

2. Houses Let in Lodgings

Number of premises occupied as Houses Let in Lodgings as at 31st December, 1962	...	...	...	...	...	643
Number of persons occupying these premises :						
Adults	...	...	...	...	...	4,427
Children	...	...	...	...	...	1,366
						<hr/>
Total Persons	...	...	...	...	...	5,793
						<hr/>

NATIONALITIES OF OCCUPANTS OF HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS SINCE 1955

Nationality	1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1960		1961		1962	
	Ad.	Ch.	Ad.	Ch.	Ad.	Ch.	Ad.	Ch.	Ad.	Ch.	Ad.	Ch.	Ad.	Ch.	Ad.	Ch.
Albanian ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
American ..	20	4	11	3	12	3	14	5	20	3	30	11	30	9	36	7
Arabs (Aden) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	—	3	—
Austrian ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	1	2	1
British West Indian ..	—	—	199	8	220	21	388	43	364	53	381	81	531	129	717	151
Chinese ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	7	—
Czechs ..	8	3	4	—	4	—	5	—	2	—	4	—	6	—	2	1
Dutch ..	2	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
English ..	278	54	237	30	198	31	196	36	274	63	313	76	299	72	322	67
Estonian ..	1	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
German ..	8	2	11	—	8	—	7	—	5	—	5	—	3	—	4	1
Greek ..	10	3	6	2	6	2	4	4	4	2	1	—	1	—	12	7
Hungarian ..	4	—	4	—	34	—	18	1	33	8	32	9	31	9	29	11
Indian ..	25	—	24	—	101	22	82	7	140	17	135	16	165	4	341	68
Irish... ..	92	15	96	17	2065	642	127	27	200	32	199	34	199	43	227	40
Italian ..	1414	285	1895	510	94	31	2244	787	2122	980	2116	1079	2187	1094	2015	897
Jugoslavs ..	74	13	93	24	64	5	98	39	103	39	100	56	96	52	98	53
Latvian ..	51	4	70	7	62	9	62	9	61	12	48	10	51	9	39	7
Lithuanian ..	1	—	3	—	2	—	2	—	3	—	2	—	2	—	3	—
Maltese ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	4	—	2	—
Nigerian ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	3	—	3	—
Pakistani ..	—	—	—	—	38	—	132	3	242	2	248	18	180	29	394	11
Polish ..	219	55	211	54	191	50	189	50	158	43	147	48	144	48	136	39
Roumanian ..	4	1	5	1	4	1	4	1	3	1	6	1	2	2	—	—
Russian ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Spanish ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5	—	4	—	3	—
Ukranian ..	33	9	41	3	38	5	37	13	36	8	36	6	31	6	32	7
TOTAL	2250	449	2916	660	3087	813	3611	1025	3781	1263	3826	1448	3984	1507	4427	1366
	2699		3576		3900		4636		5044		5274		5491		5793	
No. of Houses Let in Lodgings ..	226		341		375		458		521		578		598		643	

Ad—Adults Ch—Children

3. Rent Act, 1957

APPLICATIONS DEALT WITH DURING 1962

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	1'
Number of applications approved	...	...	1
Number of applications refused	...	...	—
Number of undertakings from owners accepted	...	—	
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	...	...	2*
Number of applications for Cancellation of Certificate of Disrepair	...	...	2
Number of applications approved	...	...	2
Number of applications refused	...	...	—
Number of applications from owner for Certificate that Undertaking had been carried out	...	...	2
Number of applications approved	...	...	—
Number of applications refused	...	...	2

* Includes an application received in 1961.

4. Food Inspection

(A) NO. OF PREMISES

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Brewery and Soft Drink Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Canteens (school and works)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Chemists and Druggists	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Confectioners (flour)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Confectioners (sugar)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Fishmongers (including fish friers)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Flour Mills	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Storage Depots	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Grocery and Provisions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91
Sweet and Chocolate Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

In addition there are forty-five food stalls on the Market Square, as follows—

Confectionery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Snack Bars	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poultry	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

(B) SAMPLES SENT TO PUBLIC ANALYST

Purchases

<i>Nature of Sample</i>	Formal	Informal
Bread and Butter, Bread Rolls and Bread	—	5
Cream	—	1
Cakes and Pastries	—	1
Cheese and Cheese Preparations ...	—	2
Fish, Tinned, and Fish Pastes ...	—	3
Fruit, Dried	—	5
Fruit, Fresh	—	1
Fruit Drinks, Juices and Squashes ...	—	5
Groceries, Miscellaneous	—	33
Ice Cream	—	11
Meat and Meat Products	—	13
Medicines and Drugs	—	27
Milk	18	66
Sausages and Sausage Meat	—	3
Sweets	1	5
	19	181

(C) SAMPLES REPORTED TO BE NOT GENUINE OR OTHERWISE
GIVING RISE TO IRREGULARITY

Sample No.		Commodity	Nature of Adulteration (as a result of examination by Public Analyst)	Remarks
Formal	Informal			
	550	Cornish Pasty	Contained a fragment of metal (brass). Sample not of quality demanded by purchaser.	Investigations made. Warning to vendor.
564		Milk (C.I.)	Fat 3.74%. N.F.S. 9.44%. Opinion that sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 6.5%.	Milk taken from vending machine. Notice as required by Section 93, Food and Drugs Act, not sent.
571		Milk (C.I.)	Fat 3.55%. N.F.S. 9.39%. Opinion that sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 11.25%.	Proceedings authorised. Information not laid within 28 days.
	583	Beef Sausage	Contained sulphur dioxide to extent of 236 p.p.m.	Notice exhibited at time of purchase.
	603	Cream filled Easter Eggs	Does not contain cream.	Formal sample obtained.
621		Cream filled Easter Eggs	Does not contain dairy cream.	Letter to manufacturers who will, in future, use the description "Chocolate Cream Easter Eggs".
	621	Grapefruit Juice	Zinc 20 p.p.m. Tin 270 p.p.m. Contained excessive amounts of zinc and tin.	Family doctor asked for analysis as patient had stomach pains after drinking this juice. Enquiries revealed that tin had been opened and contents left in can for 8 days prior to being drunk. Tin was not available and purchaser could not remember brand of juice, so it was impossible to forward an unopened tin to analyst. Family doctor notified.

622	621A	Swiss Cheese	Particle of tin foil on fragment of cheese.	Correspondence with manufacturer who considered that cheese had been stored too long. Retailers advised as to storage.
		Milk (C.I.)	Fat 3.82%. N.F.S. 9.43%. Opinion that sample was deficient in fat to the extent of 4.5%.	Proceedings authorised. Case dismissed by Magistrate.
	700	Corned Beef	Contaminated with about 20 small metallic fragments identified as a mixture of iron, zinc and tin.	Imported from Southern Rhodesia. Warning letter to wholesalers.
	718	Evaporated Milk	Water 99.74%. Organic matter 0.20%. Ash (mineral matter) 0.06%. And that it is unclean water.	Proceedings authorised. Defendants pleaded guilty. Fined £10.

(D) UNSOUND FOOD

Article of Food	Source of Complaint	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Jam	Private individual	Unusual taste	Jar half empty. Unsatisfactory evidence.
Fruit Cake	Private individual	Mould	Proceedings instituted. Case proved. Defendant fined £5.
Wrapped Loaf of Bread	Private individual	Mould	Investigations made. Letter to manufacturers.
Hamburger Meal for One	Private individual	Mould	Complainant did not desire prosecution. Manufacturers notified. All similar products withdrawn from stock and in future such meals will not be sold in this area as turnover was very slow.
Jam and Cream Sponge	Private individual	Mould on filling	Investigations made. Letter to manufacturer.

Bacon	Private individual	Maggots	Investigated. Warning letter to vendors.
Milk	School	Glass in bottle	Proceedings instituted. Case proved. Defendants fined £5.
Milk Bottle	Private individual	Dirt on inside of milk bottle	Proceedings instituted. Case proved. Defendants fined £10.
Milk	Private individual	Foreign matter in milk	Proceedings authorised. Case proved. Defendants fined £10.
Chicken Soup Powder	Private individual	Maggots	There appeared to be a considerable period of time between time of purchase and the complaint. Investigations at shop where sale was made. No further action.
Corned Beef	Private individual	Mould	Investigation made. Product packed in Argentine in 1953 and released to trade by Ministry of Food during Autumn of 1962.
Tinned Foods	Discovered by Public Health Inspector	Not properly labelled	Tinned foods without original labels were being sold in a Supermarket at reduced prices with a hand written label attached stating the type of food in the tin. The firm concerned were notified that Labelling Regulations were being infringed and have undertaken to inform all their branches that such tins must not be offered for sale under any circumstances.

(E) DAIRIES AND MILK DISTRIBUTORS

Premises registered as Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	1
Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	98

(F) MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) LICENCES

	No. of Licences
Pasteurised Milk	*95
Tuberculin Tested Milk	51
Sterilised Milk	36
Total	182

* Includes one pasteurisation plant.

(G) EXAMINATION OF SPECIALLY DESIGNATED MILKS

Designation of Milk	Samples submitted	Methylene Blue Test*		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised ...	178	171	6	178	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	54	51	2	54	—	—	—
Sterilised ...	48	—	—	—	—	48	—
Tuberculin Tested (Raw) ..	49	41	8	—	—	—	—

* The Methylene Blue Test in respect of 1 Pasteurised and 1 Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) samples was invalid as the atmosphere shade temperature exceeded 65° F.

(H) SLAUGHTERHOUSES

(1) Carcasses Inspected and Condemned

(i) Bedford

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and in- spected	3,418	377	526	8,260	5,236	17,817
<i>All diseases except tuber- culosis and cysticercosis</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	2	7	3	7	19
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	562	60	2	41	420	1085
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis	16.44	16.44	1.71	0.53	8.15	6.20
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i>						
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	1	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	80	80
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.55	0.45
<i>Cysticercosis—</i>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	13	1	—	—	—	14
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refriger- ation	13	1	—	—	—	14
Generalized and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

(ii) Kempston

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs	Total
Number killed and in- spected	1,485	3	15	2,880	3,163	7,546
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	1	—	—	—	3	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	187	—	—	9	284	480
Percentage of num- ber inspected af- fected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysti- cercosis	12.66	—	—	0.31	9.05	6.28
<i>Tuberculosis only—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	31	31
Percentage of num- ber inspected af- fected with tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	0.98	0.41
<i>Cysticercosis—</i> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	5	—	—	—	14
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	9	5	—	—	—	14
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

(I) SALE YARD

The following game and poultry were inspected at the local sale yard :

Turkeys.	Geese.	Ducks.	Fowls.	Pheasants.	Hares.	Rabbits.	Total
435	34	6	432	15	23	5	950

(2) Meat Weight Condemned

(i) Bedford

Class of Animal	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases			Total lbs.
	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	
Cattle (excluding Cows) ...	—	—	—	—	562	7,244	7,244
Cows ...	—	—	—	2	60	1,485	1,485
Calves ...	—	—	—	7	2	463	463
Sheep and Lambs ...	—	—	—	3	41	281	281
Pigs ...	1	80	1,106	7	420	2,173	3,279
Totals ...	1	80	1,106	19	1,085	11,646	12,752

(ii) Kempston

Class of Animal	Tuberculosis			Other Diseases			Total lbs.
	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	Whole Carcase	Part Carcase and Offal	lbs.	
Cattle (excluding Cows)	—	—	—	1	187	2,891	2,891
Cows	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Calves	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sheep and Lambs	—	—	—	—	9	96	96
Pigs	—	31	376	3	284	809	1,185
Totals	—	31	376	4	480	3,796	4,172

(J) OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Class of Food	lbs.
Bananas	57
Chickens	85
Cooked Meats	6
Dried Fruit	238
Fish	145
Flour	28
Meat, Imported	2,175
Meat, English	2,134
Sausages	116
Turkeys	72
Tinned Goods—various commodities (3,105 containers) ...	5,416
Total lbs.	10,472

5. Factories Act, 1937

(A) INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	No. on Register	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	No. of occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	31	19	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	*254	212	10	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	49	45	—	—
Total	334	276	10	—

* Many of these are small factories where only a few persons are employed.

(B) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which proceedings were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	1*	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	2*	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	1*	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	6	9*	—	—	—
Total	10	16	—	—	—

* Includes notices served during previous years.

(C) OUTWORKERS

Nature of Work (1)	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of work in instances of unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel: Making, etc.	36	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen	7	—	—	—	—	—
Curtain and furniture hangings	1	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture and upholstery ...	1	—	—	—	—	—

There is a NIL return for all other types of outwork.

6. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

(A) PREMISES INSPECTED AND TREATED

	Type of property				
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agricultural	Business	Total
Number of properties inspected on complaint	12	210	1	37	260
Number of such properties found to be infested with:					
RATS: Major	1	—	—	—	1
Minor	9	171	1	27	208
MICE:	2	24	—	9	35
Number of properties inspected on survey	—	41	—	4	45
Number of properties found to be infested with:					
RATS: Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	3	—	—	3
MICE:	—	1	—	—	1
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority ...	12	199	1	36	248
Number of re-visits to infested premises	51	736	4	61	852
Number of notices served—					
(i) treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(ii) structural works	—	—	—	—	—
Number of block control schemes carried out	—				

(B) SEWER TREATMENTS

Number of manholes test baited	200
Number of manholes showing take	32
Number of manholes showing no take	168
Number of manholes baited (Sodium Fluoracetate)	200

7. Premises Disinfested

Premises	Nature of Vermin	Number of Premises
Houses—Council	Bugs Ants Wasps Beetles, etc.	1 1 1 4
Houses—privately owned	Bugs Ants Wasps Beetles, etc.	4 5 14 14
Business premises	Bugs Ants Wasps Beetles, etc.	— 2 — 1
Total		47

8. Summary of General Inspections and Administrative Duties

Housing

Houses inspected under the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	162
Houses totally unfit for human habitation	...	...	187
Premises inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	382
Premises where nuisances discovered	...	...	77
Premises where nuisances abated	...	...	78
Revisits to houses under Housing and Public Health Acts	839

Overcrowding (not including Houses Let in Lodgings)

Visits	19
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Infectious Diseases

Investigations undertaken	202
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Verminous and other Conditions

Visits to verminous premises	57
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Drainage

House drains tested on payment of fee	...	...	...	4
Drains tested or inspected on complaint	...	...	...	189
Revisits during repairs or reconstruction	...	...	...	152

Visits to

Houses in Multiple Occupation	...	...	...	1,321
Moveable Dwellings, Caravans, etc.	...	...	...	51
Public Houses	...	...	...	159

Hotels	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	565
Fish Frying Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	579
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Other Shops and Premises where Food is prepared, stored or exposed for sale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,553
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Factories with mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	212
Factories without mechanical power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Work places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Shops under Section 38, Shops Act, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Premises where animals are kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Offensive trade premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Manufacturers and Stores—Rag Flock and other filling materials	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sundry nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	201
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	720

Food and Drugs

Samples submitted to Public Analyst :							
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other foods and drugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	105
Samples examined by the Public Health Laboratory Service :							
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	329
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
Total number of samples obtained for examination							586

Rats and Mice Destruction

Inspection of premises, etc. by Public Health Inspectors	...	...	...	...	...	...	71
Inspection of premises, etc. by Rodent Operators	...	...	...	...	...	...	305
Visits for treatment, including revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,100

Rent Act

Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Inspections for Certificates of Disrepair, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	16

Smoke Abatement

Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	155
Interviews with managers, stokers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Inspection of boiler plants	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Smoke Control area	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Atmospheric pollution apparatus—Recordings	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,713

General and Office Routine

Visits for interviews with owners, agents, builders, tenants, etc.	543
Interviews at office with owners, agents, builders, tenants, etc.	394
Attendances at magistrates' courts	28

General Administration

Notices served :

	Informal	Formal
Housing Act	43	27
Public Health Act	77	58
Shops Act	1	—
Factories Act	10	—
Food Hygiene Regulations	22	—
Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations	1	—
Total number of notices served ...	154	85

9. Detailed Nature of Work carried out as Result of Notices

(A) DWELLINGHOUSES

General Improvements

Defective roofs repaired or renewed	23
Eavesgutters and downspouts repaired or renewed	14
Damp walls remedied	18
Defective walls, brickwork and pointing made sound	22
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	20
Defective floors repaired or renewed	4
Defective windows repaired or renewed	50
Defective doors repaired or renewed	5
Defective firegrates repaired or renewed	4
Glazed sinks provided in lieu of defective sinks	1
Sinks and waste pipes repaired or renewed	5
Chimney heads or pots repaired or renewed	6
Defective ceilings made sound	14

Water Closets

Structural works undertaken	6
Pedestal pans provided in lieu of defective pans	3
Fittings repaired or renewed	8
Other improvements	6

Yards

Houses at which paving was repaired or renewed	2
Sanitary dustbins provided	3
Other improvements	13

(B) OTHER HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

Houses in Multiple Occupation

Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Rent books supplied	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Pedestal pans provided in lieu of defective pans	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	22

(C) FOOD PREMISES

(i) Food Preparing Rooms

General cleansing and redecoration	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Washbasins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Hot and cold water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Clothing lockers provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Benches and chopping blocks provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Artificial lighting provided to W.C. compartments	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
"Now wash your hands . . ." notices provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soap, towels and nail brushes provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New kitchens provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other improvements	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

(ii) Licensed Premises

Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wash hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Hot and cold water provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Urinals provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Intervening ventilated space between W.C. accommodation and kitchen	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

(D) OTHER PREMISES

Factories

Sanitary accommodation requirements complied with :							
(a) Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

REPORT

ON THE

School Health Service

For the Year 1962

Telephone No. :
Bedford 67422.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
BEDFORD.

*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION.*

The medical staff remained unchanged during the year.

The care of children attending our 26 schools is based on routine medical inspections at five, eleven and before leaving school, with an additional inspection and testing of eyesight by the School Nurse at the age of eight. Special examinations are, of course, carried out as and when necessary, either at the request of the parents, Head Teachers or Education Department. Children with poor school attendance records, are called for examination so that, if necessary, the appropriate arrangements can be made, such as sending the child away to a special school or arranging transport. The School Medical Officer gives advice with regard to the special education needed for handicapped children and in reaching a decision has the essential help of reports from the Head and Class Teacher. These together with, if necessary, reports from the Social Worker or Health Visitor on the home conditions enables a well-based assessment to be made on which the appropriate advice can be given. If necessary, of course, children are referred to a specialist, such as a paediatrician, child psychiatrist, chest physician or other consultant.

The pattern of School Health work has changed over the years. No longer are we faced with major problems in the field of infectious disease, though, of course, there is need for eternal vigilance to maintain high levels of immunity against diphtheria, whooping cough and tuberculosis. Epidemics are no longer a problem. There is perhaps a danger that the present situation, where few parents have had experience of diphtheria now for many years, may lead to a falling off in immunity rates and for this purpose a great deal of work is done by the Health Visitors to ensure that the necessity for protection is put over to the parents.

More and more school health problems are of a mixed nature and psychiatric problems require special help, rather than to wait for the problems to become so pressing that they are brought to our notice, we attempt, by our routine inspections and by the help given by Head Teachers in scrutinising children's progress in school work at the age of eight years, to review those not making progress to see whether we can diagnose and remove important factors, where these are due to defective hearing or vision, particular difficulties over learning, or problems in child management which may need to be referred to the Child Guidance Clinic.

As before, our arrangements over dental care and child guidance are inadequate to meet the need. These are national problems relating to the shortage of dentists and psychiatrists. The difficulties have, how-

ever, been particularly acute in the School Dental Service, as there are no financial inducements for dentists to work in the School Health Service, although the work is in many cases of a particularly rewarding nature. It is most regrettable that this priority group do not get a fair share of dental attention. Furthermore, the progress with regard to fluoridation of water supplies, a measure which safely reduces dental decay by a very satisfactory degree, is slow. Some areas have been misled by noisy, prejudiced minorities, largely composed of elderly people, without children, who have been frightened by the circulation of alarmist and inaccurate propaganda.

The School Medical Officer needs to have had special training and experience with regard to the psychiatric assessment of children and be approved by the Ministry of Education for this purpose. Increasingly he needs to be familiar with child guidance work to enable him to make earlier referrals of cases in need.

The figures in my Report show that, whilst the general health of the children remains good, routine examinations show that there are many children in need of treatment who would not get this at the earliest possible time but for our routine inspections.

I wish to thank my Deputy, Dr. Peter Lavis, and Dr. Anne Harries and Dr. Mollie Scott-Clarke for their services during the year and the Head Teachers for their valuable help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

CLIVE L. SHARP,

School Medical Officer.

Annual Report on the work of the School Health Service

I. GENERAL STATISTICS

The following table shows the number of children attending the 26 school departments in the area of the Borough of Bedford at the beginning of January, 1963 : —

Type of School	No. of Schools	No. on Roll
Nursery	1	43
Infant	8	1,665
Primary Junior Mixed	7	2,413
Primary Junior Mixed and Infant ...	3	1,539
*Secondary Modern	6	2,751
Co-educational Selective (Mixed) ...	1	99
	<hr/> 26	<hr/> 8,510
*Mixed	4	
Boys	1	
Girls	1	

It will be noted that the number of children in the schools has increased from 8,269 at the beginning of 1962 to 8,510 at the beginning of 1963.

The number of foreign children in attendance at Borough schools at week ended the 20th December, 1961 was 1,305 and 1,407 in 1962 at the 21st December.

Scope of Medical Inspection

The following figures show the numbers inspected during the year under review as compared with the previous year : —

	1961	1962
Inspections in prescribed groups ...	2,504	2,550
Special inspections at schools ...	33	4
Special inspections at clinics	187	183
Re-inspections	467	362

There has been little change in the numbers attending for special purposes at the clinics, and these attendances are mainly limited to special services such as investigations for educational subnormality or child guidance.

II. MEDICAL TREATMENT

General arrangements continued as in previous years.

There are still two school clinics for the general use of children attending schools in the Borough, namely 30 Bromham Road (transferred to new premises at Union Street in September, 1962) for the schools north of the river, and 29 Barford Avenue for schools south of the river ; and for certain purposes, children in the Borough also attended the clinic at 3 St. Peter's Street until 1st May, 1962. The work carried out at these clinics may be given in summary form as follows : —

<i>Location of Clinic</i>	<i>Time of Session</i>	<i>Work carried out</i>
Union Street: After September, 1962	Tuesday and Thurs- days in term time, 9 - 9.30 a.m. Friday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. Approx. eight ses- sions weekly until 30/11/62. Six sessions weekly after 1/12/62. As required As required As required	Treatment of minor ailments by School Nurse. Consultations by School Medical Officer. Treatment by School Dental Officer. Treatment by School Dental Officer. Diphtheria immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccination. B.C.G. vaccination. Speech therapy with County cases.
From 1/5/62 until 31/8/62	Mondays and Wed- nesdays	
30 Bromham Road: Until September, 1962	Tuesdays and Thurs- days in term time, 9 - 9.30 a.m. Friday afternoons at 2.30 p.m. Approx. eight ses- sions weekly As required As required As required	Treatment of minor ailments by School Nurse. Consultations by School Medical Officer. Treatment by School Dental Officer. Diphtheria immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccination. B.C.G. vaccination.
29 Barford Avenue ...	Tuesdays and Thurs- days in term time, 9 - 9.30 a.m. Tuesday mornings at 10.15 a.m. until 26/6/62 From 26/6/62 Tues- day afternoons at 2.30 p.m. As required As required As required Tuesday and Friday afternoons Tuesday afternoons	Treatment of minor ailments by School Nurse. Consultations by School Medical Officer. Diphtheria immunisation. Poliomyelitis vaccination. B.C.G. vaccination. Ultra violet light treatment.. Speech therapy until 31/8/62.
3 St. Peter's Street: Until 1st May, 1962	Mondays and Wed- nesdays	Speech therapy with County cases.
Putnoe	Thursday afternoons	Speech therapy until 31/8/62.

Borough children are treated with County children for orthoptic treatment and child guidance.

Children with defective vision are referred by arrangement to Dr. H. Bentley, ophthalmic surgeon.

III. CONDITIONS FOUND ON INSPECTION

General

The general health of the schoolchildren remained satisfactory. The parents as a whole were eager to seek advice whether from the family doctor or from the School Health Service.

Nutrition and General Physique

The generally good standard of nutrition and physique has been maintained.

I am indebted to the Education Officer for the following figures relating to school milk and meals : —

RETURNS MADE TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Date of Return	Milk		Meals		
	No. receiving milk	Percentage receiving milk	No. receiving meals	No. (included in previous column) receiving meals free of charge	Percentage receiving meals
September, 1961 (for comparison)	6,102	79.64	4,365	222	56.97
September, 1962	6,441	80.48	4,685	278	58.54

Uncleanliness

The number of children found unclean, that is with nits or lice in their hair, was 94 in 1961, and 126 in 1962.

All too often the same families are the source of infection, and in some cases this reflects the poor standards of home care coupled with an inability or unwillingness to co-operate in the necessary measures of control. Mainly because of this it was necessary to clean 32 children at the Borough Cleansing Station.

Minor Ailments

General

The following statement shows the number of attendances at the school clinics : —

Attendances	...	...	...	...	1961	1962
					202	146
Number of individual children attending	...				169	145

Ringworm

No cases of ringworm were discovered.

Scabies

27 cases were discovered.

Impetigo

This contagious and troublesome disease, which causes yellow crusts usually on the face, caused 31 cases. Lack of proper care and treatment was probably responsible for some of the spreading of this disease as there are effective treatments available, if the parents apply that prescribed.

Hospital Treatment

General

Hospital treatment generally is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. Some institutions which rank as schools or convalescent homes do not come under the hospital scheme and children may be sent to such institutions at the expense of the local education authority.

Tonsils and Adenoids and Allied Conditions

During the year, 5 children were referred for consultation on these conditions to the Ear, Nose and Throat Department of the Bedford General Hospital. In a number of other cases arrangements for treatment had already been made before entry to school, or after entry, independently of the School Health Service. 236 children had treatment during the year, all of whom were referred for treatment before 1962.

Apart from cases where deafness or ear disease appeared to be associated with diseased tonsils and adenoids, 10 children were referred to hospital for deafness or ear disease.

As before, children are kept under periodic review when it is thought that the condition may settle down in time without the necessity of hospital treatment.

The possibility of risk in connection with tonsillectomy during the prevalence of poliomyelitis in the area is borne in mind and necessary steps are taken against this if the occasion arises.

IV. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Measles

During the year, 125 children of school age were notified as suffering from this disease.

Scarlet Fever

It is known that 37 cases occurred amongst schoolchildren during the year.

Diphtheria

No case of diphtheria occurred amongst schoolchildren in the area.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis

Not one case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year in a child of school age.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The scheme relating to diphtheria immunisation generally works well. It depends for its efficient working on the co-operation of the Head Teachers.

The following table shows the number of children of 5 to 15 years of age who were immunised during 1962.

				Received Full Course	Received "Booster" Dose
First quarter	...	...	...	46	144
Second quarter	...	...	...	34	103
Third quarter	...	...	...	74	203
Fourth quarter	...	...	...	34	176

It is estimated that 70 per cent of all children of school age have received a full course or re-inforcing injections.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

The vaccination of children continued during the year.

The following figures show the extent of vaccination undertaken in Bedford in children born between 1944 and 1960 inclusive (the figure is that returned to the Ministry of Health for 1962, and is the nearest one to the school age which is readily accessible).

2 Salk injections	...	...	...	...	...	401
3rd Salk injections	...	...	...	...	...	1,123
4th Salk injections	...	...	...	...	...	143
3 Oral doses	...	...	...	...	...	856
3rd Oral (after 2 Salk)	...	...	...	...	...	956
4th Oral (after 3 Salk)	...	...	...	...	...	748

B.C.G. Vaccination

B.C.G. vaccination is available to all children of 13 years of age. A = Schoolchildren's Scheme (i.e. up to 14 years and 14 years and upwards still at school); B = Students. The following table shows the work carried out during the year:—

Initial Heaf Test						B.C.G. Vaccination		Referred to Chest Clinic					
No. tested		No. found to be positive and referred to Chest Clinic		No. found to be negative		No. vaccinated		No evidence of pulmonary tuberculosis		Failed to attend for X-ray examination		To be kept under observation at Chest Clinic	
A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
899	60	137	30	712	29	707	29	126	29	4	—	7	1

The differences in the figures are accounted for by absence from school.

Positive cases are referred to the Bedford General Hospital for a chest X-ray examination and negative cases receive protection with the B.C.G. vaccine.

Tuberculin Testing

The object of this test is to ascertain, as soon as children enter upon the wider contacts of school life, whether there is reason to suppose by their giving a positive reaction to tuberculin that they have been in contact, in the smaller world of the family which they have just left, with any infectious case of tuberculosis. Those children who gave a positive reaction to the test are referred to the Chest Clinic for confirmation of the positive findings and if the positive reaction is confirmed by more exact tests investigation can be made among family contacts with a view to discovering hitherto undiscovered cases of active tuberculosis. The whole purpose of the scheme is therefore to ascertain and secure treatment for active cases of tuberculosis at the earliest possible moment.

Consent given	...	...	...	...	...	...	865
Consent not given	...	...	...	...	...	...	86*

* Of this number 34 had either been tested previously, received B.C.G. vaccination or were under observation at the Chest Clinic.

Number of children tested	...	...	...	...	748
Number found to be negative	...	...	...	709	
Number found to be positive	...	...	...	39	
Absent from school at time of test	...	...	...	98	
Left district	...	...	...	19	

V. SPECIAL FORMS OF TREATMENT

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

Treatment for such minor conditions as bad posture, flat feet and knock knee of slight degree is undertaken at the Bedford College of Physical Education. During the year, 21 children were referred for treatment.

Children requiring more special treatment or advice are referred to the Orthopaedic Department at the Bedford General Hospital. Three children were so referred.

Speech Therapy

During the year, 33 children received treatment from the Speech Therapist.

Disability of Mind

During the year, 66 children were examined from the Borough schools, including private schools, and diagnosis and recommendations are shown in the following table : —

Educationally subnormal	...	...	...	...	19
1-2 years mentally retarded	...	...	...	...	9
Maladjusted	...	...	...	...	24

For re-examination later. Formal decision deferred ...	3
Unsuitable for education at school	3
No disability of mind	8

These children were referred for examination as follows :—

Examined at request of—

Head Teacher	38
Family Doctor	6
Parent	4
School Welfare Officer	2
Borough Education Officer	8
School Medical Officer	4
Health Visitor	3
Social Welfare Officer	1

At the end of the year, 12 children were resident at St. Margaret's School, Great Gaddesden, and 32 attended the Grange Day Special School, Kempston, both of which are under the control of the Bedfordshire County Council and are for educationally subnormal children.

Maladjusted children are usually referred to the Child Guidance Clinic, and details are given in the report of the Principal School Medical Officer. Six children received treatment during the year at the Hostel for Maladjusted Children, "Heathwood," Leighton Buzzard, and six at other institutions.

Handicapped Children

Category	Attending Special Boarding Schools	Attending a small private school under arrangements made by the Authority	Receiving education at home under Section 56 of the Education Act, 1944	Attending Unit for partially hearing children, Luton	Under hospital care
Blind	3	—	—	—	1
Partially sighted	—	—	1	—	—
Deaf	3	—	—	1	—
Partially deaf	3	—	—	1	—
Delicate	5	2	2	—	—
Maladjusted	12	6	1	—	—
Physically handicapped ...	4	1	1	—	—
Speech defects	—	—	1	—	—

Treatment in Convalescent Homes and other Institutions

Children who suffer from more or less indefinite forms of ill-health are sent to convalescent homes at the expense of the Local Education Authority for periods of usually a few weeks, and often receive great benefit from such treatment.

One girl of 15 was sent away for debility and was withdrawn from home by parent after five weeks.

One boy of 3 who is mentally retarded and has Hydrocephalus was sent away for two weeks.

Five other children received treatment for more definite diseases at special institutions.

Nine children, for whom this treatment seemed best, received education at a private school at the Local Education Authority's expense.

VI. DENTAL TREATMENT

Mr. F. Brabington-Perry, School Dental Surgeon, gave approximately eight sessions a week to the inspection and treatment of Borough children until 30th November, 1962. Mr. J. E. Cruickshank, County Dental Surgeon by agreement with the Local Education Authority, commenced duties in Bedford on 1st December and gives six sessions per week. A number of children, it must be remembered, receive treatment under the provisions of the National Health Service Act independently of the School Health Service.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

Screening for Partial Deafness

If a baby cannot hear properly it will fail to learn to speak properly and may give the appearance of mental retardation. For this reason health visitors have been trained in testing infants for hearing defects, if there is any doubt further testing is then arranged.

If a mother suspects deafness in a child she should contact her nearest child welfare centre or this department for the test to be carried out. Repeated testing may be necessary in some cases to be sure. The earlier the diagnosis is made the better. Very few children are totally deaf and individual home teaching by a specially trained teacher of the deaf and the provision of a suitable hearing aid can be of great help.

The department also has the part-time service of an audiometrician who has the necessary equipment which produces sounds of varying intensity over the full range of frequencies involved in understanding speech. 710 children were "sweep tested" and 92 were given a complete test.

Early diagnosis is the key to successful treatment. Audiology units for partially deaf children are now operating successfully in infant and junior schools and a unit has been approved for Bedford.

Bed Wetting

Many children suffer from this distressing condition and in the past have had a variety of forms of treatment, which have been attended

with a modicum of success. In general most of them have no illness to account for the condition and it is a failure in the development of control. Quite often there is a family history of slowness in gaining control.

Sometimes nervousness and bad management have delayed this process and these cases respond rapidly to suggestion, or, in some cases, the combination of suggestion with varying forms of drug treatment and advice on management to the parent. Punishment is, of course, useless in such cases and does harm by making the child more nervous.

More recently, an electrical device, which wakes the child up with a loud buzzer immediately he passes a drop of urine, has been tried out and despite considerable doubt expressed by various people as to its efficiency and mode of action, it has been possible to clear up a number of long standing cases of enuresis with this apparatus when other methods had failed.

It should, however, be used with discretion, as a child's bed wetting may be symptomatic of bad management and problems within the home setting. Each case should be carefully reviewed to eliminate other factors before the apparatus is utilised.

At present there is a waiting list, which is tending to get longer as more cases come to our notice.

Medical Examination of Candidates for Admission to Training Colleges and to the Teaching Profession

During the year, 33 students applying for admission to Training Colleges were medically examined. An X-ray examination of the chest is arranged where it is considered desirable.

Twenty-eight candidates for entrance to the teaching profession were examined. An X-ray examination of the chest is required in all these cases.

Employment of Children Byelaws

282 children were medically examined in 1962.

VIII. THE GRANGE SCHOOL

This school, under the control of the Bedfordshire Education Committee, was opened during the year. It is situated in Kempston and 28 children from Bedford are in attendance.

IX. CONCLUSION

There is no material change to report in the general work of the School Health Service, and the physical health of the children is generally well maintained.

X. STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE I—MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING NURSERY AND SPECIAL
SCHOOLS)

(a) *Periodic Medical Inspections*

Age Groups Inspected (by year of birth)	No. of Pupils Inspected	Physical Condition of Pupils Inspected			
		Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
		No.	% of Col. 2	No.	% of Col. 2
1958 and later	124	124	100.0	—	—
1957	741	741	100.0	—	—
1956	255	255	100.0	—	—
1955	55	55	100.0	—	—
1954	16	15	93.75	1	6.25
1953	2	2	100.0	—	—
1952	57	57	100.0	—	—
1951	437	437	100.0	—	—
1950	219	219	100.0	—	—
1949	1	1	100.0	—	—
1948	22	22	100.0	—	—
1947 and earlier	621	621	100.0	—	—
Totals	2,550	2,549	99.96	1	.04

(b) *Other Inspections*

	1960	1961	1962
Number of Special Inspections ...	385	220	187
Number of Re-Inspections	377	467	362
Totals	762	687	549

(c) *Pupils Found to Require Treatment*

Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Disease and Infestation with Vermin).

Age Group Inspected (by year of birth)	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any other conditions record- ed in Table III	Total individual pupils
1958 and later ...	—	4	3
1957	5	56	57
1956	6	14	20
1955	1	2	3
1954	1	2	3
1953	1	—	1
1952	4	2	6
1951	29	19	46
1950	25	5	29
1949	—	—	—
1948	1	—	1
1947 and earlier ...	21	23	42
Totals	94	127	211

TABLE II—INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

	1960	1961	1962
(1) Total number of individual examinations in schools by school nurses	19,394	20,763	22,991
(2) Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	117	94	126
(3) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54(2), Education Act, 1944)	—	—	—
(4) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54(3), Education Act, 1944)	—	—	—

TABLE III—NUMBER OF DEFECTS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT OR OBSERVATION AT MEDICAL INSPECTIONS DURING 1962

Defect or Disease	Periodic Inspections								Special Inspections	
	Entrants		Leavers		Others		Total		Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
	(T)	(O)	(T)	(O)	(T)	(O)	(T)	(O)		
in	—	23	15	9	1	10	16	42	4	—
es—										
(a) Vision	13	101	23	58	58	58	94	217	19	—
(b) Squint	15	17	2	5	3	8	20	30	—	—
(c) Other	3	—	—	21	—	1	3	22	2	1
ars—										
(a) Hearing	38	21	2	—	2	1	42	22	2	—
(b) Otitis Media	1	10	—	—	—	3	1	13	—	—
(c) Other	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
ose and Throat	1	65	—	3	1	25	2	93	1	1
peech	7	23	—	2	1	1	8	26	8	—
ymphatic Glands	1	4	—	—	—	1	1	5	—	—
heart	—	15	—	7	—	8	—	30	—	—
ungs	—	21	—	8	1	9	1	38	2	—
developmental—										
(a) Hernia	—	7	1	1	—	2	1	10	—	—
(b) Other	—	10	—	4	1	15	1	29	1	—
orthopaedic—										
(a) Posture	3	13	3	3	4	1	10	17	—	—
(b) Feet	—	46	—	7	8	6	8	59	1	—
(c) Other	—	16	—	12	—	8	—	36	5	2
nervous System—										
(a) Epilepsy	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	5	2	—
(b) Other	—	3	—	2	2	3	2	8	8	2
psychological—										
(a) Development	1	19	—	—	—	9	1	28	46	3
(b) Stability	5	47	—	3	1	9	6	59	34	3
Abdomen	—	20	—	1	—	4	—	25	—	1
Other	3	17	—	3	1	6	4	26	33	9
Totals	91	502	46	150	84	189	221	841	168	22

T = Treatment. O = Observation.

TABLE IV—TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Eye Disease, Defective Vision and Squint

	No. of cases dealt with by the Authority		
	1960	1961	1962
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	6	27	25
Errors of refraction (including squint)	290	331	302
Totals	296	358	327
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were prescribed	130	176	117

Diseases and Defects of Ear, Nose and Throat

	No. of cases known to have been dealt with		
	1960	1961	1962
Received operative treatment—			
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	—	—
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	81	73	236
(c) for other nose and throat conditions	—	—	—
Received other forms of treatment ...	6	—	—
Totals	87	73	236

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects

	1960	1961	1962
Number of pupils known to have been treated at clinics or out-patient departments	42	28	41

Diseases of the Skin (excluding uncleanness, for which see Table II)

	No. of cases treated or under treatment during the year by the Authority		
	1960	1961	1962
Ringworm—			
(a) Scalp 	—	—	—
(b) Body 	—	—	—
Scabies 	—	—	27
Impetigo 	21	62	31
Other skin diseases 	14	1	7
Total 	35	63	65

Speech Therapy

	No. of cases treated by the Authority		
	1960	1961	1962
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapist 	40	50	33

Other Treatment Given

	No. of cases treated by the Authority		
	1960	1961	1962
Pupils with minor ailments 	92	169	145

TABLE V—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

Number of pupils inspected by the Dental Officer—						
(a)	at Periodic Inspections	...	...	...	...	4,780
(b)	at Specials	...	...	...	...	353
Total						5,133
Number found to require treatment						2,606
Number offered treatment						2,606
Number actually treated						937
Number of attendances made by pupils for treatment (including orthodontics)						1,578
Half-days devoted to—						
(a)	Inspection	...	...	...	...	31
(b)	Treatment	...	...	...	...	321
Total						352
Fillings—						
(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	445
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	402
Total						847
Number of Teeth filled—						
(a)	Permanent	...	...	...	...	422
(b)	Temporary	...	...	...	...	388
Total						810
Extractions—						
(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	83
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	959
Total						1,042
Administration of general anaesthetics for extraction						30
Number of pupils supplied with artificial teeth						—
Other operations—						
(a)	Permanent Teeth	...	...	...	...	191
(b)	Temporary Teeth	...	...	...	...	43
Total						234